

# The Saturday Review

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## CONTENTS.

NOTES . . . . .	PAGE	Browning and Christianity. By J. Churton Collins . . . . .	PAGE	CORRESPONDENCE :	PAGE
LEADING ARTICLES :	335		343	"National Poor-rate." By Lewis Barstow . . . . .	351
Russia, France, and Egypt . . . . .	337	MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES :		REVIEWS :	
The Education Bill . . . . .	338	Intelligence on Mars . . . . .	345	Problems of the Soudan . . . . .	352
Dr. Playfair? . . . . .	339	The "Matthew" Passion and the "John." By J. F. R. . . . .	346	New Editions of Burns . . . . .	353
The Charges against Dr. Peters . . . . .	340	Mary Anderson. By G. B. S. . . . .	348	The Far Eastern Question . . . . .	355
SPECIAL ARTICLES :		Money Matters : New Issues—Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.) ; The West Australian "Venture" Syndicate ; "Humber Cycle" Finance . . . . .	349	The Art of Wildfowling . . . . .	355
Fraudesia Magna—II. By R. B. Cuninghame Graham . . . . .	340			The Genesis of the American Woman . . . . .	357
The Oxford and Cambridge Boatrice. By W. H. Grenfell . . . . .	342			Fiction . . . . .	358
				New Books and Reprints . . . . .	359
				Reviews and Magazines . . . . .	359
				ADVERTISEMENTS . . . . .	360-375

## NOTES.

SIR HERCULES ROBINSON is afraid that the Matabele rising is "big business," and few men have more experience of South African wars than he. Both Bulawayo and Gwelo are to a certain extent in danger from the blacks, and Mr. Rhodes will for the first time, we believe, taste in person of the excitement of native warfare. It certainly is very awkward that this outbreak should have occurred just at the moment when the military and police organization is in a transition state. The command of the police has been taken away from the Chartered Company and transferred to Sir Richard Martin, the officer of the Imperial Government. But Sir Richard Martin and his staff have only just started for South Africa, and in the meantime Colonel Plumer of the York and Lancaster Regiment has been sent up from Cape Town to command the forces provided by the Chartered Company. It should, however, be clearly understood that Sir Hercules Robinson, and not the Company, is now responsible for the order and safety of Charterland. But this Matabele trouble may have one very valuable result—it may draw the English and the Boers once more together. The black is the common enemy ; and the danger of a black invasion is almost as great for the Transvaal as for Charterland. If the Boers and the British were to join forces against the Matabele, the Uitlanders' question would be settled.

It would be well, in all this controversy, if our instructors in the daily press could keep the question of Dongola apart from that of the Soudan, with which, in truth, it has nothing to do. Dongola will be restored to Egypt within a few weeks ; the Soudan may have to wait for years. The Soudan was always a dead loss to Egypt ; Dongola was a clear gain. Leaving aside altogether the question of military security, the figures of the last financial report (that of Colonel Stewart in 1882) show that, even under the systematic embezzlement and oppression of the old system, Dongola was a paying province. With a revenue of £E.55,000, the administration cost only £E.10,000, leaving a surplus of £E.45,000, an amazing balance for an Egyptian province. If we add Suakin and Berber, we have a net income of over £E.75,000, surely a revenue worth fighting for by a poor country like Egypt. It is quite true that the Soudan as a whole was run at a loss of nearly £E.200,000, a good reason for abandoning, for a time, the non-paying provinces, but not for losing hold of Dongola and Berber. Of course the bulk of the revenue in 1882 was raised from water-wheels (sakiyés) and date-palms, and, thanks to Mr. Gladstone and Exeter Hall, the sakiyés have been destroyed and the date-palms cut down ; but the peasantry who cultivated the oasis of Dongola are eager to resume their former

industry, and if, as we may hope, order is substituted for anarchy, before the end of the year in Dongola and Berber the water-wheels will again be at work, and cultivation restored in a province which should never have been surrendered to anarchy and barbarism.

With regard to the Soudan proper, it is simply a question of expediency, and the matter cannot be put better than it was by Mr. Chamberlain when he said that the advance of the Egyptian army would be measured by the resistance which it would meet. But it must not be forgotten that the Soudan of to-day is not the Soudan of 1883. Then it was for Egypt to advance or retire, knowing that no other Power was likely to set up rival claims. Now she knows that France, the Congo State, and Abyssinia are all pressing on the Soudan frontier, and that, if the Power which so long ruled Bahr-el-Ghazl and Senaar is not prepared to reassert its influence, there are others quite prepared to take over the responsibility. Egypt, which lives by the Nile, can never permit another Power to control the head waters of that river ; and so, although Dongola may be the objective to-day, Berber, Khartoum, and Senaar must, sooner or later, become tributary to Egypt, or Egypt will cease to exist as a self-supporting Power.

It was the universal opinion that Sir John Gorst's speech in introducing his Bill was a model of conciseness and lucidity in composition, and was quietly and clearly delivered. At last, after waiting for nearly twenty-five years, after submitting to many disappointments and some unjust neglect, Sir John Gorst's hour seems to have arrived. Some of his failures and delays Sir John Gorst owes, as most men do, to a temper and a tongue ; but most of them he owes to the fact that he was cleverer than the men who were just above him and around him in politics. One can imagine the anxiety with which the Crosses and the Knutsfords would combine to keep out "that fellow Gorst." We would wager that both these statesmen have offered Sir John Gorst high office in India and the colonies. But nothing shows Sir John Gorst's strength of character more than his resolute refusal to be tempted by a high salary to leave politics. This betrays a conviction of ultimate success which almost amounts to greatness.

At the Bar and in journalism Sir John Gorst cannot be said to have succeeded, probably because his heart was never in his work. The author of the Education Bill is a distinguished mathematician, having come out as a very high Wrangler in the Cambridge Tripos, and he is more or less of an expert in education, for he began life as a master at Rossall School. He went out to New Zealand when quite a young man, and it is said that he there engaged in missionary work. He used to devil for Sir John Holker at one time, and it may be

remembered that Sir John Gorst was Solicitor-General for about six months in the short-lived Conservative Government of 1885. He has written for daily and weekly newspapers, but without displaying any special aptitude with his pen.

Lord Rosebery pretended to get very excited at Huddersfield over the charge that the Radical party when in office sold peerages, which he stigmatized as "a scandalous lie." But, indeed, "the lady does protest too much." Whatever we may think of Lord Rosebery's politics, we know him to be a smart man of the world. We can, therefore, only explain his really childish defence of his own honours by supposing that he fell into the error, which is very common among the smartest people, of thinking that anything is good enough for provincials. "If anybody thinks that Mr. Gladstone received any corrupt consideration for these peerages," shouted Lord Rosebery, with a simulation of insulted virtue that would have made his fortune at Nisi Prius, "he had better stand up at a public meeting and say so." Even the stomach of the Liberal Federation refused to swallow this, and there were titters and correcting cries of "No, No."

At the time that Mr. Williamson and Mr. Stern were elevated to the peerage there appeared in this Review an article entitled "Honours Rooted in Dishonour," in which we commented, not only on the extraordinary distinction thus conferred on two silent and ineffective members of Parliament, but also on the baronetcy bestowed on Captain Naylor-Leyland, late Tory member for Colchester. As Lord Rosebery has chosen of his own will and motion to reopen the scandal, we will repeat our charge in a sentence or two. Nobody supposed that Mr. Williamson or Mr. Stern went to see Mr. Gladstone with his cheque-book in his pocket. Nobody imagined that either of these noblemen enclosed a cheque for £50,000 in a letter to Mr. Gladstone, asking for a peerage in consideration. What was said and believed, and is still said and believed even after Lord Rosebery's mock heroics, is that these two individuals had sent to Mr. Schnadhorst or to Mr. Hudson, or both, very large sums of money, particularly for the election of 1892. The Whips, of course, know every farthing that is paid to the central fund in the hands of Mr. Schnadhorst or Mr. Hudson. We do not fancy that Mr. Marjoribanks went to Mr. Gladstone and said, "Messrs. Stern and Williamson have paid in so much each: they must have each a peerage." Of course not. Mr. Marjoribanks, doubtless, represented these two persons as earnest workers in the vineyard. But, as Sir Wilfrid Lawson asks in his letter to the "Times," if Lord Wandsworth and Lord Ashton were not made peers for their money, what were they made for?

Lord Rosebery's attitude on this question is, so far as it is intelligible, characteristically and cynically inconsistent. Lord Rosebery does not object to the creation of peers in the abstract, but he does in the concrete. What is the explanation of this Delphic drivel? Objecting to the creation of peers in the concrete, Lord Rosebery then proceeds to plead guilty to the creation of two very concrete peers—namely, Lord Loch and Lord Burghclere. To these two creations no Conservative could object, for both had been distinguished men in their way. But it is a mere abuse of the power of distributing honours to bestow them on men who are distinguished for nothing except the length of their purse.

Mr. Curzon is improving rapidly in his method of handling Mr. Gibson Bowles. On Monday night it was Mr. Bowles who lost his temper and Mr. Curzon who kept his. To interrupt an Under-Secretary when he is making a statement of his own personal opinion upon foreign affairs by bawling out "What do you know about it?" savours more of the Bermondsey Town Hall than the House of Commons. But Mr. Curzon was smiling and polite, and the angrier waxed Mr. Bowles the more good-humoured grew the Under-Secretary. And, greatest victory of all, Mr. Curzon got the House to laugh with him and at Mr. Bowles, whom he certainly convicted of the House of Commons crime and

misdeemeanour of repeating an old speech. But the discussion of our treaty obligations with Turkey, which Mr. Bowles so courageously raised, served the useful purpose of dispelling some illusions about the Treaties of Paris and Berlin, and the Cyprus Convention. It is now clear that we are under no obligation to defend Turkey against Russia under the Cyprus Convention, because Turkey has not carried out certain reforms which were the consideration for our undertaking. It is equally clear that we are still bound to France and Austria by treaty to defend Turkey whenever either of those Powers calls upon us to do so.

Mr. James Lowther, who seconded Mr. Gibson Bowles, said the nastiest things about Sir Philip Currie in the pleasantest possible voice. An ambassador is rather more helpless than other public officials because he can neither write nor speak in reply, and because he is out of the country. It certainly has been Sir Philip Currie's misfortune to be connected, at the outset of his diplomatic career, with one of the most unsatisfactory chapters of our Eastern diplomacy. Whether the cause of failure was Sir Philip Currie's want of experience and tact, or Lord Salisbury's indecision, or Prince Lobanoff's astuteness, it is almost impossible to say now; history will decide that point. But Mr. Lowther is probably right in saying that the training of a Foreign Office clerk is not a good education for an ambassador. We have our only General; but who is our only Ambassador?

Mr. Balfour's management of the business of the House of Commons does not seem to have been so bad as Sir William Harcourt would have us believe. The Leader of the Opposition was really hurt at Mr. Balfour's suggestion that, if he liked, he might go down to the New Forest on Tuesday, and read Sir John Gorst's speech in his Wednesday newspaper. But it turns out that Mr. Balfour's arrangement was singularly convenient and considerate for all. It was, of course, impossible to raise anything like a debate upon Sir John Gorst's outline of a long and complicated Bill. Nothing more than a conversation followed; but members and the public have now got the Easter holidays in which to read and think over this great education scheme, which is far better than springing it upon us in May, as Sir William Harcourt proposed, when there are always so many other claims upon our attention.

Sir Herbert Stephen comes out in the "Nineteenth Century" as a vigorous defender of his father's later views on the subject of permitting prisoners to give evidence on their own behalf. He (or rather his Editor) calls Lord Halsbury's Bill, as adopted by the House of Lords, "A Bill to Procure the Conviction of Innocent Prisoners," and he predicts, on the strength of his experience as Clerk of Assize on the Northern Circuit, that the effect of the change will be to work cruel hardship on ignorant prisoners. Of course Sir Herbert Stephen's opinion is of weight; but prediction is dangerous work even for experts. Here is a single fact that is worth a bushel of theories. Not many years ago a number of men were prosecuted, convicted, and imprisoned for fraud—"one of the most elaborate frauds ever disclosed in a court of law," said the prosecuting counsel; and the judge and jury agreed with him. Not content with his success in the criminal trial, the aggrieved party brought a civil action to recover £15,000 from the chief "criminal." But now, for the first time, the accused man was allowed to give evidence in his own defence. Before he had been half an hour in the witness-box the case against him had disappeared. The jury stopped the trial, and Lord Coleridge, in expressing his complete assent to their view, declared that, in his opinion, the ex-convict "in all he did acted as a man of honour and integrity," adding that "the conviction against him must have been owing mainly to the fact that he could not be heard in his own defence." When a wealthy man, defended by the ablest counsel, is the victim of such a miscarriage of justice, what chance has a poor prisoner with, perhaps, no one to speak for him, or, it may be, a halting junior, who is worse than nobody?



At last we appear to be within measurable distance of hearing the facts in the much-debated "Herz Case." It will be remembered that the prisoner was arrested at Eastbourne in January 1893 on an extradition warrant, containing various charges of fraud and blackmailing in connexion with the almost forgotten Panama scandal. But here comes in the difficulty. Three distinguished physicians certified that Dr. Herz, who was suffering from heart disease, was in such a critical condition that the least emotion might be fatal; above all, that he could not be brought to London. As the Extradition Act provides that prisoners may be tried only at Bow Street, the dilemma was obvious, and it has lasted for more than three years. At last a special Act of Parliament had to be passed, and now the Home Office has given notice that Sir John Bridge will attend at Bournemouth on April 17, and proceed to hear the case in the prisoner-patient's bedroom. This will be a record even for Sir John Bridge, who has had some strange experiences. At one time the news would have created a sensation in France, but since even Arton has been drawn blank, there is little hope of much news being extracted from Dr. Herz—assuming, of course, that the extradition is granted and that the prisoner is well enough to travel. We have no doubt that more "certificates" will be forthcoming—a rich man can always get as many as he wants. But the British public, like the French Government, will probably be suspicious of a "critical" illness that has lasted over three years without serious results.

Few men, we imagine, have "spent and been spent" more freely in the Conservative cause than Mr. Harry Marks, and he now enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that Mr. Benn, at all events, will not sit for St. George's. The battle has been an unequal one; for while Mr. Benn has been fighting with other people's money, Mr. Marks has been fighting with his own, which will no doubt be counted unto him for righteousness. But now that it has been decided that Mr. Benn has made illegal payments, we fail to see what is the object of proceeding with the scrutiny. Whether it is or is not to be gone on with will form the subject of a legal argument on the first day of next term. The lawyers engaged in this case have veritably found a gold mine in the Far East.

The long-promised report upon the use of anti-toxin serum for the cure of diphtheria in the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals has at length appeared. Six medical officers have collaborated in its production, and the result is interesting both on account of what it reveals and what it omits to observe. The claim that the new method has reduced the case-mortality of diphtheria by 7 per cent. sounds modest after the bombast of Continental experimenters. It is based upon a comparison of the whole of the figures for 1895 with those for 1894. But as the serum was only administered to three-fifths of the patients in 1895, it will be seen that these voluminous statistics are somewhat illusive on examination, especially as the report avoids any comparison between cases occurring in the same year which were treated both with and without the serum.

The tables have, however, enabled us to arrive at this comparison by a simple calculation. In 1895, 2,182 cases were treated with anti-toxin; death resulting in 615 cases, or 28·1 per cent. But of the 1,347 patients who escaped a trial of the new cure, only 181 died, or 13·4 per cent. It will doubtless be urged that such a comparison is unfair, because the toxin was only administered in the more severe cases; but, as we read on p. 1 of the report that, "in a certain number the patients, being moribund at the time of their arrival, and beyond the reach of any treatment, no anti-toxin was given," the inclusion of these moribund cases would tend to counterbalance the other considerations. Again, a comparison of the case mortality in 1894, before the serum was used, with all the cases treated therewith in the following year, manifests a death-rate of 29·6 per cent. in the former and 28·1 per cent. in the latter instance. Here a difference of only 1½ per cent. is left to the glory of anti-toxin, minus a startling increase in the complications directly attributable to the injection. In short, the case for anti-toxin is no whit stronger than it was a year ago, when we were almost alone in refusing to accept its promoters as saviours of society.

#### RUSSIA, FRANCE, AND EGYPT.

ALTHOUGH the British-Egyptian advance up the Nile has not as yet encountered any opposition from the Dervishes, it has already laid low a statesman of such importance as M. Berthelot, the late French Minister of Foreign Affairs. This is a result which it occurred to no one to predict, but which, upon reflection, may be seen to have been inevitable. The Bourgeois Cabinet, which began life last October without a majority in either Chamber or Senate, and has amazed everybody by continuing to exist through the winter, found itself saved from extinction last week by a chance majority of seven, and achieved even this doubtful victory by abandoning most of the details of its Income Tax Bill. Though it kept itself alive, it lacked the strength to persuade the Chamber to start upon its Easter holidays at once and give the rescued Ministers time to recover their breath and nerve. The Deputies resolved to meet again on Monday, and it was understood well enough that the assault upon the Ministry would then be renewed with added prospects of success. The tone of the "Figaro" and other anti-Radical papers revealed an intention to deliver an attack both upon the Government foreign policy and upon its financial proposals. M. Bourgeois adroitly forestalled this movement by putting M. Berthelot out of his Cabinet, and by surrounding the act with an atmosphere of mystery, which suggested to everybody that the foreign situation had suddenly become very grave indeed. This able strategic diversion upset all the plans of the enemy. When M. Bourgeois on Monday asked that for reasons of State no questions should be asked about Egypt before Thursday, the Chamber could do nothing but assent; and when he met the hostile Senate on Tuesday with a similar plea that disclosures at the present time might be fatal to the interests of France, the Senators growled angrily, but they dared not insist upon their point. Although we are compelled to write in ignorance of the result of Thursday's debate in the Chamber, we do not doubt that here, too, the trump card of imperative diplomatic reserve in the face of an international crisis will have been played effectively.

All this indicates that M. Bourgeois is an astute and resourceful politician, but that we knew before; it throws very little light in any other direction. We still do not know the true story of M. Berthelot's downfall, or whether his offence was in going too far in his protest against our new Egyptian policy, or not far enough. Nor has it as yet been made clear whether the cause of the surprisingly sudden rupture of almost affectionate Franco-British relations lay in Paris or in London. It may be said, however, that the elucidation of these doubtful points has ceased to be of urgent importance. Wisely or not, the thing has been done. The only French Foreign Minister of the decade who has shown a disposition to cultivate our friendship has been dropped out of public life, and whether his successor be named Bourgeois or Hanotaux, we rest assured that his pro-English idiosyncrasies will not be reproduced. It is equally evident, too, that though the French may be able to restrain their impatience for prompt and spectacular action in the Egyptian matter, the issue of the Nile has again been raised as a barrier between them and us, and this time permanently.

The theory of the newspaper correspondents that Russia, while not refusing a measured co-operation to France, has refused to be committed to any rash or hurried programme, and insists upon a cautious policy of taking exception to our course of action, and of then waiting silently for us to create our own difficulties, has at least the merit of reflecting Russia's habitual methods. Ever since the bitter lesson of the Crimea was digested, the watchword of the Muscovite colossus has been "wait!" It happens that within the past year events have conspired to produce an impression of great Russian activity. We have seen the enormous extension of Russian preponderance on the Pacific, and the extraordinary gathering of the rulers of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Servia under the wing of the Tsar; and these facts seemed to indicate that Russia, under the new reign, had thrown off the sluggish torpor in which she dozed under Alexander III., and was at last ready

to throw herself into a career of conquest and adventure. But this is hardly the case. What we have witnessed, both in the Far East and in the nearer Levant, has been the natural culmination of a prolonged and ineffably patient process, extending over twenty years. It was logically inevitable that Manchuria and Corea at the one side of Asia, and the Sultan and the ambitious Balkan princes who wait to divide his inheritance, should gravitate toward the vast Slavonic mass that we call Russia, if only time enough were given. It is the mission of the Tsar's huge armies bulked along the Austro-German frontiers, and of the Tsar's diplomatic servants quartered in the European capitals, to secure time above all things. Russian policy may often seem to contradict itself; very frequently in the past Russian ambassadors have represented one line of policy at Vienna, another at London, a third at Constantinople or Berlin or Paris. But the end sought has always been the same—to minimize the chances of action by the other Powers, and to preserve, at whatever cost, the *status quo*. This is called "keeping the peace," and when the late Tsar died he went to his tomb amid a whole world's eulogies as the man whose personal force and resolution had alone saved Europe from war during his reign. But the new Tsar, who differs utterly from his father in every respect, is also credited with a passionate devotion to peace. If he should disappear, the brother or uncle or daughter who mounted the throne would be revealed to us as palpitating with the same touching attachment to peace. It is the business of Russia to maintain to the latest possible day this terrible armed peace, the burdens of which have already crushed Italy flat, and are wearing Germany and Austria to the bone, but which bring to the Tsar only profit and fresh dominions and new mercenary allies.

The task of holding a nervous and eager people like the French down to the almost imperceptible pace at which Russia, with the slow, noiseless slipping, inch by inch, of a glacier, moves towards her ends, is obviously the most delicate and difficult feature of the problem presented by a Franco-Russian alliance. The task has been accomplished thus far by the rather brutal, but characteristic, method of letting the French understand plainly that while they must dance whenever Russia pipes, they need not expect that Russia will stir a muscle at their bidding, unless the action proposed is one which harmonises at every point with Russian policy. In the present case, it is easy to believe that Prince Lobanoff has discouraged violent talk and reckless courses at Paris, but it is hardly safe to predict that even the risk of losing Russian co-operation will avail to hold the reckless spirits there in check, when the sinuous M. Bourgeois is finally pinned down to a definite declaration of his intentions.

#### THE EDUCATION BILL.

WHEN Sir John Gorst sat down on Tuesday, after proposing to abolish his own department and to revolutionize the national system of education, the Radical party found themselves in the position of a man who has been leaning with his whole weight against a door, which is suddenly opened from within. The Radicals had been in the habit of denouncing the bureaucratic tyranny of Whitehall: and here was a Bill to hand over the powers of the Education Department in London to Committees of the County Councils. They had been declaring that the Tories were about to assist the Voluntary schools at the expense of the Board schools, and here was a proposal to divide the special aid grant between the Voluntary and the necessitous Board schools. They had been clamouring for some national scheme of Secondary Education; and here was a Bill with a cut-and-dried plan for handing over the Beer-duties to the new Education Committees with wide powers of spending the money on Secondary Education. They had demanded with a loud voice that Voluntary schools should be subjected to popular control; and here was Sir John Gorst calmly proposing to place them under Committees of Town Councils, of County Councils, or of District Councils, as the case might be. They had made the welkin ring with their complaint that in many rural districts Nonconformists were obliged to submit their children to the soul-

destroying influence of the doctrine of the Church of England; and here was a clause to enable them to withdraw their children, if so minded, from such danger, and if there were any reasonable number of them to have separate religious teaching. In fact, all their points against the Church party were one by one removed by the pitiless Vice-President of the Council. We do not wonder that Mr. Acland could do little more than gasp out that it was the greatest educational upheaval of the century, and plead rather feebly that Sir John Gorst had given them ever so much more than they had bargained for. Perhaps upheaval is a strong word; but the Bill will certainly effect as complete a change in the system of public education as the creation of County Councils produced in the system of rural government. It will certainly be the second great Education Act of the century, and it will probably absorb more of the time and interest of Parliament than the Irish Land Bill. We congratulate the Government on the fact that the Minister who has charge of the Bill is not only an educational expert, but a man of first-rate Parliamentary ability. We also congratulate Sir John Gorst upon his good fortune in being the Vice-President of the Council at such a time. This measure will not only be the Bill of the year, it will be the Bill of the Parliament, just as Mr. Ritchie's Local Government Bill was the Bill of the 1886 Parliament.

The main principle of the Bill is the devolution of the powers now exercised by the Education Committee of the Privy Council at Whitehall to Education Committees of the local authorities. Except as an approving body, sending out inspectors (at rarer intervals presumably than heretofore), the functions of the Education Department will be gone. The local Education Committees may be constituted by the Town Councils, County Councils, and in certain cases District Councils, as they please, except that a majority of the Education Committee must be members of the County, Town, or District Council. To these Education Committees are to be handed over the management of the Code and the distribution of the Government grant, the two most important duties of the Education Department at Whitehall. The new Committee will therefore have to hold the scales in future between the Board and Voluntary schools, and in certain circumstances the Committee will itself become the School Board. It is a bold experiment to substitute the control of the local sanitary authority for that of a State department of highly trained officials and experts under the headship of two members of the Government. The tradesmen and builders who crowd on to the Town and County Councils would not strike us at the first blush as supplying very promising material for a new educational authority. It is true that only the majority of the Committee need be Councillors; the minority may be composed of outsiders. If the local authorities have the good sense to nominate as the minority men who are interested in education, irrespective of party, then all may go well. But if the composition of these new Education Committees is to be made the subject of an ordinary party struggle, then we are afraid that the cause of public education will be seriously imperilled. It is quite evident that the Government entertains no such fears, for its Bill is based on the principle that the local sanitary authorities may be trusted with the guardianship of the national education.

The three remaining points on which the interest of the public will be concentrated are the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit, the limitation of the School-rate, and the religious clause. Since Lord Sandon's Act of 1876, which abandoned the principle of the Act of 1870 that the State grant must only be the equivalent of the amount per child contributed locally, the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit is not so important. It makes no change of principle, and presumably a State grant might now be paid to a school which was totally unsupported by local subscriptions. In this latter case, however, we should imagine that a Voluntary school would be taken to have "broken down," and that the Education Committee would then be transformed automatically into a School Board. Whether the system of ignoring the amount of local subscriptions will work well remains to be seen. The limitation of the amount of the School-rate is one of the boldest and wisest provisions of the



Bill, and is no doubt borrowed from the legislation of the United States, where a veto on the School-rate is common. Any increase in the School Board rate in consequence of the maintenance of children will in future have to be sanctioned by the rating authority. We think this is a very sensible clause, but we are not sure that it makes for local harmony. We are not quite certain, for instance, that if the London School Board had to obtain the consent of the County Council for every increase of its rate, there might not burst forth an internecine war between these two bodies as to which should get in first with its increased levy on the helpless ratepayers. The local sanitary authority will, of course, be master of the situation, as it holds a veto over the School Board; but we can only hope that there will not be over much friction. As for the religious clause, which enables parents to withdraw their children from the religious instruction of the school, and if "reasonably numerous" to have arrangements made for a separate religious class, we can only say that we think it an eminently just and sagacious proposal. This will not prevent its being opposed in the bitterest spirit of theological rancour. But, as Sir John Gorst philosophically observed, the religious difficulty is not in the schools; it is in Parliament: it is a platform and political difficulty. As such it will have, of course, to be confronted and surmounted. The Bill is thorough, and as it proposes great changes, it naturally suggests apprehensions to which we have given frank expression. But the measure is "broad-based" enough, and is impregnated with the spirit of Tory Democracy. As such it will certainly leave its mark upon the Statute-book, and make the reputation of its author.

#### DR. PLAYFAIR?

IT is not surprising that the utmost confusion prevails in the lay mind about the questions at issue in the case of Kitson against Playfair. Mr. Justice Hawkins is an old judicial hand, and he knows that the best way to avoid being reversed on appeal is never to travel an inch beyond "the present case." In summing-up to the jury, Mr. Justice Hawkins took very good care not to rule that the communication made by Dr. Playfair to Sir James Kitson about Mrs. Arthur Kitson was privileged. Mr. Justice Hawkins knew very well that had he done so he would have opened up a very wide question on which the Court of Appeal might have been against him. What, therefore, this very experienced judge did was to ask the jury whether the communication in their opinion was malicious—whether, that is, they thought that it was prompted by spite, or anger, or any sinister motive. Mr. Justice Hawkins thus threw the whole responsibility on to the jury, without committing himself to any ruling on privilege; so that if hereafter the judgment should be reversed, the jury and not the judge will be corrected. This was very clever, no doubt; but if all judges acted in this spirit of caution, we should not make much progress in clarifying the principles of law. The legal privilege which protects the utterer of a defamatory statement about another is a much misunderstood subject. Legal privilege is of two kinds, absolute and qualified. Absolute privilege is attached to the statements of members of Parliament, judges, barristers, communications between solicitor and client, reports of officers to superiors, and does not concern us here. Qualified privilege, so far as it is applicable to this case, attaches—1. Where circumstances cast upon the defendant the duty of making a communication to a certain other person. 2. Where the defendant has an interest in the subject-matter of the communication, and the person to whom he communicates it has a corresponding interest in it. Where, therefore, a libellous statement is published in the discharge of a duty or in the protection of a legitimate interest, the libeller is not responsible unless he or she can be shown to have spoken maliciously—*i.e.* in the furtherance of some improper end. Now, doctors as such enjoy no more of this qualified privilege than any other members of the community. The obligation of a medical man to keep the secrets of his patients has

been mixed up with the privilege that might have been, but was not, ruled by the Court to attach to his communication to Sir James Kitson. Mr. Justice Hawkins expressed his opinion that it would be "monstrous" to rule that it was a doctor's duty to inform the Public Prosecutor of his belief that a woman was about to procure abortion. So that, if a doctor made an erroneous statement to the authorities on such a subject, he would be liable to very heavy damages at the suit of the woman libelled, not because he was a doctor, but because he had made a false statement about another in circumstances where he had no duty to make any statement at all. On the other hand, Mr. Justice Hawkins and everybody else are agreed that, if a doctor thought that a murder was about to be committed, the communication of his belief to the police, no matter how erroneous it might turn out to be, would be protected by the privilege attaching to the discharge of an obvious duty to society. Dr. Playfair's statement to Sir James Kitson about Mrs. Kitson must therefore be tested as if it had been made by an ordinary member of society and not by a doctor. The fact that Dr. Playfair had obtained the information on which he based his statement in his capacity of Mrs. Kitson's medical attendant does not affect the legal question of privilege, though of course it very largely affected the verdict. Let us suppose for the moment that Dr. Playfair, instead of attending Mrs. Kitson himself, had heard from Dr. Williams or any other medical colleague a report of the facts about Mrs. Kitson's illness, and had repeated them to Sir James Kitson. What then?

Had Dr. Playfair repeated to Sir James Kitson what he had heard from a medical colleague about Mrs. Kitson's health, we believe that the verdict would have been in his favour. Or had Dr. Playfair been a doctor of laws instead of medicine, and as a layman repeated to Sir James Kitson what he had been told by Mrs. Kitson's doctor, we believe that judgment would have been entered for him. This seems like a paradox, because it is generally thought worse to repeat a libel at second-hand than to state it on your own personal knowledge. But a moment's reflection will show that Dr. Playfair's communication was covered by privilege, and that, had he not attended Mrs. Kitson professionally, this fact would have been recognized by the jury. Had Dr. Playfair a duty cast upon him to tell his wife's brother the conclusion he had formed about the character of the woman to whom his wife's brother was paying a substantial allowance? Had Dr. Playfair an interest in telling what he thought he knew about Mrs. Kitson to Sir James Kitson, and had Sir James Kitson a corresponding interest in hearing it? The answers to these questions are so obvious that, we repeat, had Dr. Playfair not himself attended Mr. Kitson he would have won the action. It was Dr. Playfair's duty to tell his wife's brother what he believed he had discovered to the detriment of a member of his family to whom he was paying an allowance; he had a legitimate interest in telling what he thought he knew, and Sir James Kitson had an equal interest in hearing it. Settlements made upon separated wives nearly always contain the *dum casta* clause, and presumably Sir James Kitson's allowance would not have been paid if Mrs. Kitson had been leading an openly immoral life. If a member of the family finds out, or thinks he has found out, that a wife so supported is leading a secretly immoral life, is it not his duty to tell the person who pays the allowance? It was the way in which Dr. Playfair got his information, not the communication of it, that ruined him with the jury. The jury were outraged at the discovery that eminent physicians appear to regard the secrets which belong to their patients as belonging to them, to be used by them in any manner that they may think proper. It was a fearful revelation of the danger to which every one is more or less exposed in the fancied privacy of the consulting-room. The jury were also exasperated by the spectacle of so many other eminent doctors coming forward to back up their colleague in his conduct. Evidently the mischief was widespread, and an example must be made. Further, the jury were indignant at the harsh, brutal, and almost inhuman manner in which this eminent ladies' doctor treated a suffering and helpless woman.

A suspicion probably crept into their minds that some of Dr. Playfair's rich and fashionable patients were not exactly Dianas, and that Mrs. Kitson's chief crime was that of being a poor relation. Nevertheless, the damages will probably be reduced by some calmer tribunal. An allowance of four hundred a year, terminable by the death, caprice, or insolvency of the payer, cannot on any known principle of valuation be capitalized at twelve thousand pounds. Damages should be judicial: these are passionate damages. The Court of Appeal will probably offer the plaintiff the alternative of reduced damages or a new trial.

#### THE CHARGES AGAINST DR. PETERS.

THE announcement that, as a result of the recent debate in the German Reichstag, a Commission is to be sent to East Africa to investigate the charges against Dr. Peters will be welcomed by every one interested in the welfare of tropical Africa. Until the Commission has reported we are bound not to believe such of the accusations as Dr. Peters denies. We prefer not even to repeat them. The sense of truth in the average East African is so rudimentary that it would be monstrous to accept charges made by natives which are not supported by convincing proofs. Moreover, as Dr. Peters has always shown the bitterest hostility to England, it is especially incumbent on Englishmen to suspend judgment in a case in which he is the defendant. But he has repeatedly accused himself of such disgraceful behaviour that we need have no sympathy with him in his present trouble, and may fairly rejoice that some of the worse charges against him will at last be properly investigated.

Dr. Peters once wrote a book entitled "New Light on Dark Africa," in which he shows us the sort of light that his work has thrown on that continent. In August 1889 he started up the Tana River, in British East Africa, at the head of an armed force of Somali. Before the end of that month, by the capsizing of a canoe, he lost, among some loads of ammunition and brandy, "the only load of beads I possessed." He continued his journey, as he tells us, "without any articles of barter" ("New Light on Dark Africa," English edition, 1891, p. 148). He, of course, had not sufficient food with him to last for the whole journey, and could not have carried it if he had. In consequence, as he explains, "the determination to advance without the requisite articles of barter once for all decided the character the expedition was for the future to bear" (*op. cit.* pp. 152, 153). As the caravan was obliged to get food and had no money with which to buy it, food had to be stolen. The subsequent history of the expedition is, therefore, one long story of raid, loot, and massacre. No traveller has followed in Peters's footsteps without feeling the ill effects of the distrust of Europeans that has resulted from his action. The harm he did cannot be undone in less than a generation.

In condemning Peters for his action, we have not forgotten that African explorers are sometimes justified in taking food by force. An explorer may arrive in a country after a march across a tract of foodless desert without a day's rations in his sacks. He may be perfectly willing to buy food at even famine prices, and may exercise every possible precaution. The natives, however, may mistake him for an Arab, and bolt into hiding. By great patience and tact the suspicions of the people may be allayed. But it is equally probable that they may refuse any intercourse with the caravan, and then there is nothing left for the leader to do but steal or starve. There is no doubt what ninety-nine people out of a hundred would do in such circumstances, and a man so placed is to be pitied rather than blamed. This is a very different thing from plunging into Africa with an armed caravan, knowing that from the very start it will have to be supplied with food by force. An expedition so carried out is nothing but a buccaneering raid. If the questions at issue concerned only Dr. Peters's past actions, it would be of no general importance; for from various reasons his African days are done. But he is not the only offender. It is easy for Europeans wielding the despotic authority with which caravan leaders are now necessarily entrusted to

abuse their power. The unlucky natives of the Tana have complained of personal ill-treatment much worse than the loss of food, and from Englishmen as well as from Germans. England recently rang with indignation at the hanging of Mr. Stokes. Though the question now raised concerns the rights of Africans instead of Europeans, we hope that an equally emphatic lesson will be taught that the lives and persons of innocent natives are to be held sacred.

#### FRAUDESIA MAGNA.—II.

BEYOND the Vaal for almost fifty years the Boers had had free play for self-development. They passed their lives as it seemed to them with profit. They ruled and licked their "niggers," shot their game, rode round their herds, were born, married, died, and left no epitaphs. What if they used no pocket-handkerchiefs, and went to bed, full dressed, and in their boots? Many a good man wishes to die with his boots on rather than in a bed. What matter if they showed but little aptitude for business, and generally refused to enter into the sweet joys of modern life?

If ledgers, telegrams, with shares, trains, telephones, and vaccination, normal schools and School Boards, rights of women, homes for lost dogs, and social purity left them unmoved, they showed an aptitude for other things perhaps as unimportant. With rifle in their hand, on a half-broken horse, they loped across the veldt, on a dark night going as surely where they wanted as a dog returning home. At almost any distance in reason, the Roineck soldier whom they aimed at was as good as dead. If they were, perhaps, a little brutal in their ways, it is the wont of those who live as they did. A healthy, barbarous race of folks, speaking no language but their own, and loving field-sports; given to hospitality and elementary vices.

It is the glory of the British Government never to profit by experience. Sometimes I think the Anarchists are right in saying that government itself is what is wrong; for men who in their private lives, as grocers, lawyers, auctioneers, or soap-boilers, seem quite intelligent, no sooner enter Governments than they run stark mad.

After the example of the East India Company and the various Chartered Companies of times gone by, it seemed a little risky once more to try another. No Bourbon ever profited so little by facts as British statesmen. So once again we peddled off Imperial responsibility to a job lot of peers, princes, company-promoters, magistrates, and others of those for whom the Prayer Book bids us pray when Parliament is sitting. What happened might have been foreseen even by a member of a County Council.

With much profession of "Imperial interests," "the duties of a conquering race," of "extension of the beneficent influence of British progress," the Chartered Company set out to run its course. First, it annexed a lot of territory which seems not worth a penny; then almost quarrelled with the Portuguese; smashed up the Matabele, without a reason, except that it was said their territory was rich in gold. But all the same their chiefest aim and object seems to have been to pick a quarrel with the Boers.

The "stickit" captains, with the herd of those who could not pass examination, the officers on leave (*sic*) from the British army, the company-promoters and the rest seem to have thought that on them lay the onus of revenge for our defeats at Bronkerspruit and at Majuba—at least they said so in the bar-rooms. So that the feeling of antagonism which nearly a generation of peace had almost stilled daily became more keen betwixt the Britishers and Boers.

Two of one family scarcely can agree in business, and it may be that the Boers and ourselves were too akin to pull together. What wonder that the ignorant and semi-barbarous Dutch farmers thought they had met and smashed the power of Britain after their victories! What wonder that the English farmers and settlers chafed under the rough taunts of men as brutal maybe as themselves!



The Anglo-Saxon race, great as it is, wants above every other race the restraining influences of civilization to make it pleasant to deal with. Therefore doubly was Imperial control of paramount necessity on the Dutch frontier. Unfortunately, some twenty years ago, gold had been found in the Transvaal. When we consider that the Premier of the Cape was emperor at Buluwayo, and possibly largely concerned in mining enterprises at Johannesburg, the reason of the constant bickerings of Englishmen and Boers becomes quite plain.

The Government of the Transvaal seems to have been quite aware of what was sure to happen when the mines were opened at Johannesburg. On the one hand a pastoral population living in the country, and on the other a mass of all the heterogeneous scum which always floats to gold mines. Still, gold mines in South Africa seem to collect a somewhat different population from that which congregated in California and Australia.

In neither of the latter countries was there a native population to be found ready to work; therefore the fortune-hunter had to do his digging for himself, and thus became capable of facing hardships, and not a swaggering capitalistic boaster ready to talk and careful of his carcass like the Outlander of Johannesburg.

Gold-mining is pleasant sport enough when, seated in your office, you fleece the public in a Christian manner and let the niggers do the digging. Pleasant moreover in a sort of Bedford Park or Turnham Green with a good climate; for at Johannesburg the "artistic" terra cotta and red brick Victorian Queen Anne æsthetic style of architecture has had full sway, and alternates with blocks of buildings in the Palladian Ebenezersque; with all the horrors of plate-glass, and free advertisements, fashionable suburbs, native quarters of the town, residences of our prominent citizens, and everything a Houndsditch Jew, or New Cut Christian suddenly made rich, might sigh for.

Add to these beauties of art a situation in a dreary plain; spice well with loafers, Kaffirs, Jews, and a few Malays, some Dutchmen come to town to sell their wool, dozens of tramps, plenty of Englishmen upon the make, with others on the burst, and more or less you see the place. There is of course the aristocracy—that is, of money—and the controlling spirit of that well-known revolutionary party which lured poor Dr. Jameson to Krugersdorp and then made terms with Kruger whilst he was fighting.

In a place composed as is Johannesburg, one does not look for Christian virtues, as the people all are there in order to make money, and not to preach the Gospel. Still, a little courage does not come amiss even to moneygrubbers. Then, too, we English are a generous race, and virtue in distress, even in theatres, is always a trump card. Yet here were Englishmen fighting, as they perhaps believed, for the lives of Englishmen, and still the Reform Committee of Johannesburg, instead . . . of mounting more or less barbed steeds, was capering nimbly in Paul Kruger's chamber to the lascivious pleasing of a dudlesack.

We are told that the chief spies were athletes to a man, one of them being champion runner of South Africa; and no doubt their strength, just like their hearts, was in their heels. As yet not one of the capitalistic revolutionaries has denied the soft impeachment of the letter to Dr. Jameson. Till that is done the leaders of the Outlanders must be set down as cowards. Indeed, it seems but little valour was in the place; for in the ignoble panic which ensued we hear of burly Cornish miners trampling on children and throwing women out of the railway carriages in their extremity of terror. That "Cowards' Van" was written on the cattle-trucks which carried them, unless the writers of the legend were Boers, seems to have been a little hypercritical on the part of men of valour like the reforming runaways, who planned the scheme and failed to face the music.

Let us examine for a moment what was the position of the foreigners within the town. No doubt they bore the greatest burden of the taxes, and had no votes; but then their object in Johannesburg was to make money, and not to pose as social emancipators.

The Boers, no doubt, regarded all of them, even the richest, as a set of money-grubbers whose souls were in their pockets, and to whom votes were quite un-

necessary. I do not say that the Boers were right; but men who, like the Boers, fight better than they talk are apt to take this view of men of business.

Then comes another question. In the reforming schemes so well thought out by the Reform Committee it does not seem a place was found for the "niggers" who worked the mines. Suppose the *coup d'état* had not miscarried, how had the position of the Kaffir workers been benefited? 'Tis strange the Cornish miners never thought of joining in the demand for votes. Might it have been that they looked to the Boers to protect them from the greed of Christian and Jew capitalists?

And the historic raid itself, the foray of the well-born moss-troopers, commanded by the younger sons of peers and officers of Household Cavalry on leave, all honourable and very pushful men.

No one denies that a Transpontine Pax Britannica hung over the land. All was at peace. The Matabele smashed, the native tribes in general almost cowed, no quarrel on the *tapis* between the Courts of Windsor and Pretoria.

True there had been a fall in Chartered shares, and generally a feeling that the gold in British South Africa, outside the Transvaal, might all be carried in a hat-box. Nothing, as far as we know, had transpired to ruffle the relations between the rival claimants for the future throne or Presidential chair of the South African Republic or Empire. Hofmeyr and Rhodes, although no doubt hating each other like true friends, still outwardly were one.

Paul Kruger had not signified that he intended to attack the capital of the Cape Colony. We are gravely asked to believe that peaceable Dutch farmers, as stolid as if they had come from Aberdeenshire, were about to butcher citizens whose only crime was to have asked for votes, and put the honour of their wives in peril. Had they been Arabs, Indians, Turks, Armenians, or Cossacks, the thing might have been true; but Dutchmen, and Dutchmen of the Dopper type, it passes credibility.

Our mission (if we had one) in South Africa was to show the benighted people how Englishmen behave in matters national and international. Therefore, for months before the event we allow our Chartered Company to mass police on the frontier of the Transvaal. We allow our fellow-countrymen in Johannesburg to boast of the rifles and Maxims which it turned out they had not got, and to insult the National Anthem of the country in which they lived, in open theatre. Then came the raid led by the Scottish Doctor, luckily not clothed in the habit of old Gaul.

Being a doctor, and therefore used to blood, he seems to have kept what little head the flattery he had received for his exploits against the Matabele had left him. At any rate, he faced the dangers of his silly expedition like a brave man, and still has time, if fools will let him, to take a quiet Scottish practice in Aberdeen or Peebles, and beat his sabre back again into a bistouri. When it was known in England that the brave five hundred had not run away, but stood some hours of fire, how the pæans in praise of British pluck burst forth! When in the past have Britons ever quailed, even against far greater odds than those of Krugersdorp?

But, then, 'tis said how splendid was their conduct. Look at the distance they covered in the saddle. It now appears the distance from the frontier to Krugersdorp is about one hundred and twenty miles, thus giving two days' ride of sixty miles a day.

Now, though I am myself a man by nature quite as unwarlike as any other Outlander, and look on a horse as only a trifle less terrific than a tiger, I am told by those who know, that our Indian cavalry frequently accomplish sixty miles a day, and in a climate far severer than the climate of South Africa. And then the hardships that they underwent, the men and horses being represented as having passed two days without provisions, which seems strange when, in the evidence at Bow Street, it is sworn that every twenty miles there was a sort of bar-room for the men and stables for the beasts.

It may be that the valour, or at least the skill, of both the Boers and Jamesonians has been overestimated. To the civilian mind it seems a little curious that the Boers

should have fired for thirty hours upon a handful of mounted men halted on an open plain, and only killed some twenty of them. But if the shooting and the tactics of both sides were poor, their power of imagination seems to have been immense. The Boer loss is put down at anything from three hundred to six thousand, their dead from four to about three hundred.

In fact, imagination seems to have been about what there was most of on the field of Krugersdorp. One thing, 'tis true, might have been done, but was omitted. In times gone by your Englishman died game. If in a sea fight he got the underhand, he nailed the colours to the mast and went down cheering. No matter what the odds by sea or land, he seldom capitulated. Cervantes, who himself had fought in the great battle of Lepanto, observes that the soldier makes a better show dead on the battlefield, than safe in flight. He might have said the same about capitulation, if at the time the word had been in the Spanish dictionary.

It does not fall to the lot of every one who comes under capitulation almost without conditions to meet a conqueror like old "Oom Paul." If he had ranged the whole five (or four) hundred in a row and shot them in the market-place of Johannesburg, we might have pitied, but could not have avenged them. I who write these lines have seen five hundred men full of life and hope—that is, the hope that most men have of not too unpleasant life and easy death—stuck up against a wall and "executed," and can well remember at the last fire all who remained erect were one old man smoking a cigarette, and quite composed, and a young soldier clasping a crucifix. However, in South America men "play and pay," and are not returned as "empties" to the mother-country, to become the heroes of the nation they have disgraced.

It may be, if good Father Charlevoix were to write the story of our doings in South Africa, that he might give a different answer to his own three questions. Laying aside the blessing of the true faith, which I suppose some of us must have introduced into South Africa, where are the other blessings (apart from gin and powder) which we have given the natives?

No one can say the Chartered Company has been a blessing, even in disguise. If to work hard and be a sort of helot is a blessing, the Dutch and English rulers have done much good; for now I understand that Kaffirs have to show at the year's end a tale of days worked for their conquerors. Labour twice sanctifies the Kaffir (and the Briton); it blesses him who toils, for in itself it carries sanctity; it also blesses him who profits by the labour, and surely that is much. If want of faith, and love of gold and greed for power, with lack of common courage (which a bulldog has) to stand by friends in peril, are an example, why the natives are greatly in our debt.

England, perhaps, is justified, if not by works, by her humiliation; for, once again, the whole world thinks us liars.

No one will credit that the personally conducted picnic from Mafeking was kept a secret from all in London and the Cape. We still are brave and true, honest and generous, as Britons always have been; but a censorious world, perhaps, will call the qualities in doubt.

In the whole sordid and tinpot affair none have emerged with credit. Rhodes is a sort of unofficial exile, with his Charter almost doomed. Hofmeyr has rounded on his friend, and Thatcher cannot draw. The fifteen pushful warriors at Bow Street are become a joke for Gods and men, and the curtain seems about to fall on a dismal farce.

From the rank wash of scum and duckweed rises out "Oom Paul," like a Batavian Neptune, and so triumphant that he is reported to have sent to Manchester for pocket-handkerchiefs (for the first time in his life), to be made of good stout bunting, striped like the Union Jack.

R. B. CUNINGHAME GRAHAM.

#### THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOATRACE.

THE University Boatrace of 1896 will always be memorable among the memorable races that have been rowed since the contest was started in 1829. As a rule, and as may well be expected in a boatrace as

long as four miles and a half, the finishes are not close; as a rule the boat which has the lead at Barnes Bridge passes the winning-post first; as a rule the favourite crew lands the odds. The race of this year proved an exception to all these rules. There have, indeed, been exceptions to these rules before. In 1877 the finish was so close that the judge, when he was found, called the race a dead heat; but Oxford, which was clear at Barnes Bridge, would certainly have won had not bow's oar broken at the leather in the rough water above the bridge. In 1886 the Cambridge crew made a terrific spurt, and made up some two lengths between Barnes Bridge and the finish, and won the race by three parts of a length. In 1883 an Oxford crew, with odds of 5 to 1 betted against it, walked away from their opponents, and won the race with consummate ease. This year all the rules were broken—the finish was as close as could be, the verdict remaining in doubt till almost the last stroke; the crew that had a comfortable lead at Barnes Bridge did not win; and the odds were upset.

Cambridge started the favourites, and had been the more fancied of the two crews for some time before the race. Mr. T. B. Hope, the President, had at the outset six Old Blues who had rowed in the race before to form the nucleus of the crew; a Cambridge College crew had won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley, and the Trial Eights were above the average. These considerations seemed to point to the fact that in 1896 Cambridge would have an excellent chance of avenging the six defeats she had sustained since 1890. The preliminary training passed off satisfactorily, and when the crew arrived upon the tidal waters it immediately created a favourable impression by its great power and the length and clearness of its stroke through the water. The time of the oars also was good, and the feather high enough for the stormy reaches of Putney. Against those good points had to be set a great want of uniformity in the swing of the bodies, which in some cases was so irregular as to be eccentric. In Mr. Fernie, however, Cambridge possessed a stroke of whom any University crew might be proud, and on the whole the boat well deserved the confidence which their backers placed in them.

At Oxford the President, W. E. Crum, though a host in himself, could only count upon the services of two men of the good crew which won at Putney in 1895—C. K. Phillips and C. D. Burnell. There were, therefore, five places to be filled, and no fewer than three of these were finally occupied by freshmen from Eton, in the persons of J. J. de Knoop, R. Carr, and H. Gold. The latter had come up to the University with a deservedly great reputation as a stroke, having occupied that position three times in Eton Eights which had won the Ladies' Plate at Henley. Oxford had thus six Eton oars against but two in the Cambridge boat—T. B. Hope and A. S. Bell. The crew passed through the early stages of practice without misadventure, and were much fancied at home. Like their opponents, they were a powerful set of men; their body-swing was regular and uniform, but they did not preserve the Oxford tradition of a high feather and a clean finish so requisite on the tideway, where they did not create in consequence so favourable an impression as the Cambridge crew. With so many Eton oars, however, cradled as it were in a racing boat, and a stroke who could be counted on to race, there were many who thought they could not be beaten. An Etonian oar can generally be counted upon to do a bit more when it comes to racing than he has done in practice.

The race itself can be shortly described. The wind was blowing from the W.N.W. so hard that an hour before the race it appeared as if it would be impossible to race on the flood. Cambridge won the toss and chose the Surrey shore. An hour before the race, when the wind was blowing half a gale off the Surrey shore, this station would have been a great advantage; when the race was started at one o'clock the wind had fallen a good deal, and was blowing straight down the Putney reach. Cambridge forced the pace the whole way through, and a grander race has never been seen. Fernie, the stroke, rowed an admirable race, and was well backed up, but those who had placed their faith on the Oxford stroke were not disappointed. He never let the Cambridge men get away from



him. At the critical moments of the race, when it was a question of an advantage in the water, he was always ready with a spurt, and never allowed his opponents to assume a commanding lead. From the Mile Tree—reached in 4 min. 8 secs.—to within 150 yards of the winning-post Cambridge always held the lead, but only by dint of rowing their hardest the whole time. Here Cambridge ran into a heavy sea, which appeared to stagger the boat and actually stop it. Oxford, helped by their body-swing, which they had maintained all through the race, and by the slightly smoother water of their station, gained steadily and pulled the race out of the fire, and won by two-fifths of a length in the excellent time, considering the conditions, of 20 min. 1 sec. Thus ended a most memorable race. The excitement of those who watched it from the following steamers was not only sustained but constantly increasing. On board the *Umpire's* steamer, a region sacred to critical Old Blues, white-haired veterans danced up and down like freshmen on the towing path during the Torpid races. Both crews rowed a splendid race. Whether, given the same stations, the losers might not have reversed the verdict had it not been for the sudden squall they encountered at the very finish, it is impossible to say; but one thing is certain, and that is, that Cambridge has no reason to be anything but proud of the crew which represented her in 1896, and no eight men ever rowed harder over the Championship course.

W. H. GRENFELL.

#### BROWNING AND CHRISTIANITY.\*

I HAVE sympathy with Mr. Berdoo. He is evidently a serious and earnest man who has thought much about subjects to which few of us can afford to be indifferent. He tells us, in the preface to the present book, that twenty years ago, after a long course of reading the works of Agnostic teachers, he had ceased to believe in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and had come to the conclusion that "no conception of the Supreme Power presented to the mind in any of the religious systems which he had investigated was supported by sufficient evidence to satisfy a scientific thinker of the present day." And I am concerned to add that Mr. Berdoo almost became a Buddhist. But what a thunderbolt falling from a serene sky was to Horace that have been the poems of Browning to Mr. Berdoo, and the result is a work which this brand plucked from Agnosticism dedicates to "the Clergy, Ministers, Religious Teachers of all denominations of Christians, and to those who are perplexed and in doubt concerning questions of the utmost importance to all." In other words, Browning has reconverted Mr. Berdoo to Christianity, and Mr. Berdoo is gratefully anxious to serve the cause of Christianity and his fellow-men by enabling Browning to do for others what he has done for him. Whether Mr. Berdoo is justified in assuming that the Clergy and those of the household of Faith are in the condition which his dedication seems to imply, I cannot say; but I think it highly probable that it is an assumption to which some of his dedicatees are likely to take exception.

Browning's relation to Christianity and to all that is involved in a belief in Christianity is undoubtedly one of the chief points of interest in his writings, and accounts, I suspect, for the extraordinary popularity which during late years they have attained. When Matthew Arnold observed that two things about the Christian religion must be clear to anybody with eyes in his head—namely, that men cannot do without it, and that they cannot do with it as it is—he gave expression to a feeling which a few years ago many would have been afraid to own, but which is now all but universal. Any writer, therefore, who deals with this question is sure to command respectful attention, and no writer has dealt with it more powerfully than Browning. He has approached it from all points of view, for it presented itself to him from all points of view. It appealed to him sentimentally from the associations of his youth and from the more sacred associations of

after years—for there can be no doubt that the influence exercised on Manzoni by his first wife—an influence to which Christianity owes its divinest lyrics—was not greater than the influence which Mrs. Browning exercised on her husband. It appealed to him as a poet, as a dramatist, as a moral and metaphysical philosopher, as a psychologist and student of human nature. It interested him as a vast historical fact, as the expression of the most momentous revolution in the records of our race, whether regarded in relation to what it has accomplished or in relation to what it has initiated. He believed, like Lessing, in its essential truth. I think Mr. Berdoo would have done well had he been less anxious to fix Browning's personal creed in form, had he recognized the distinction which exists between what was buried with the poet and what finds permanent expression. Nothing can be more misleading than a confusion of this kind, and nothing unhappily is more common. We have had a recent illustration in the case of Tennyson. His gossip among his private friends has been brought forward to show that he was at heart an Agnostic; but all that concerns us now, and all that at any time concerned the world, was what he gave to the world, and in what he gave to the world he was a Christian. His ideal men are pure Christians, his ideal women are pure Christians, his ethics are Christian, his theology is Christian. As in the case of Wordsworth, where he appears to be Deistic or Pantheistic, there is nothing in his Deism or Pantheism irreconcilable with the Christian faith. To represent him as an Agnostic may be to represent him as he talked in certain moods to his friends, but it is not to represent him as he appears in his writings. With regard to Browning it is necessary to remember two things—that he believed that truth was purely relative, admitting of no such thing as finality, and that he delighted in surveying it in all lights and on all sides. What human nature and human character were to Shakespeare the human mind was to him. In private conversation he always protested against being identified as an individual with any of the personages whom he introduces as mouthpieces in his poems, and against the assumption that any sentiment, opinion, or dogma to which they give expression was the expression of his personal feelings and convictions. He has himself described his poetry as "poetry always dramatic in principle, and so many utterances of so many imaginary persons, not mine," and he said, and said repeatedly, that it would be a great mistake to label as his own "philosophy" or "religion" any body of opinions which could be deduced from his works. This is what Mr. Berdoo has not remembered, and it has greatly detracted from the value of his book. It is absurd to construct a system out of a patchwork of dramatic utterances, to cull a passage now from the Pope's soliloquy in the "Ring and the Book," now from the wretched æsthete in "Pauline," now from the "Dramatic Romances," now again from the "Parleyings," and then to present them in unity as the Gospel of Browning.

In Mr. Berdoo's general conclusion that Browning, as he appears in his writings—which is all that concerns any one now—"is much more than a Theist, he is a Christian," I entirely concur. But this I do not deduce by Mr. Berdoo's process; for by this process it would be easy to show that Browning was an Atheist, a Deist, an Agnostic, or a Christian, in the sense in which Huntingdon S.S., or Cardinal Newman, or Dean Burgon or Dr. Jowett would respectively have defined the term. But I deduce it from the very wide space which Christianity fills in his writings; from the profound respect and reverence with which in every one of its manifestations, even the meanest, it is treated; from the elaborate apologies for it in answer to its various opponents; from the fact that it is always represented as the creed of creeds, as a Divine manifestation comparable to no other, whether in relation to the needs it meets or the ends at which it aims, and as marking the highest point attained in man's spiritual development. In Lessing's "Die Erziehung des Menschengeschlechts," and in his other contributions to the Reimarus controversy, is undoubtedly to be found the germ of Browning's teachings with reference to Christianity. Adopting from Lessing the theory of

\* "Browning and the Christian Faith. The Evidences of Christianity from Browning's Point of View." By Edward Berdoo. London: George Allen. 1896.

a progressive revelation keeping pace with and aiding man's spiritual and moral progress, he finds that revelation, like Lessing, in Christianity. Thus in "Saul" he shows that it was to supply what was wanting in the Jewish world, which had expanded beyond the needs satisfied by the teaching of the Old Testament. In the "Epistle from Karshish to Abib" he shows how it supplied what the contemporaries of Christ in Palestine needed, in "Cleon" what Greek Paganism left unsatisfied. In "A Death in the Desert" he elaborately, through words placed in the lips of St. John, answers Strauss and Renan, meeting them on their own ground, and fighting them with their own weapons. It is interesting to notice that Browning is here again indebted to Lessing, from whom he borrows the main argument. In one of his comments on the fragments which he published from the papers of Hermann Samuel Reimarus, who had, anticipating Strauss, attacked the historical bases of Christianity, and who thought, like Strauss, that in destroying those bases he was destroying the thing itself, Lessing observes, "What has the Christian to do with the hypotheses, explanations and evidences of the theologian? To whom the Christianity he feels to be so true is there once for all. If the palsied individual experiences the electric spark, what matters it to him whether Nolle or Franklin or neither be right? In short, the Letter is not the spirit and the Bible is not Religion. Consequently charges against the Letter and the Bible do not imply also charges against the spirit and religion." "Christianity is not dependent on the New Testament"; as it preceded the records, so, whatever may be the fate of the records, it will survive them. Browning's poem is, it will be seen, little more than an elaborate development of what the great German critic has here suggested. In "Christmas Eve" Christianity, as represented on the side most repulsive to reason, and on the side most repulsive not to reason only but to taste and culture, is defended, and the untenable position of the Agnostic is demonstrated. In "Easter Day" it again finds a strenuous and, from some points of view, unanswerable apologist. In the "Epilogue to Dramatis Personæ" it is again viewed in reference to progressive revelation, and Browning there shows that, if it has ceased to preserve its dominant individuality, to shine, as it once shone, a bright and particular star in the spiritual firmament, it is not because it is a star which is extinguished, but because it is a star lost in a galaxy; if it is no longer conspicuous in singleness, it is because it has become absorbed, has "decomposed" that it may "recompose," and become "my universe that feels and knows." Even in "Caliban upon Setebos," which prodigious stupidity has construed into a satire on Christianity, we have in implication an indirect testimony to the beauty and truth of the Christian conception of Deity. Some five hundred years before Christ, Xenophanes, in a remarkable passage, had said, ridiculing the monstrous anthropomorphism of the popular creed, that if a horse or an ox could express its conception of a deity, the one would make him an ideal horse and the other an ideal ox. And it is on this hint that Browning speaks. Caliban's speculations practically reduce to an absurdity any other definite conception of a Deity than that indicated in the Deity of the Christian revelation. As a satire it makes, it is true, no distinction between the Jehovah of parts of the Old Testament and the Zeus of the Iliad; but the Jehovah of the Old Testament differs as much from the God preached by Christ as the Zeus of the Iliad differs from the Zeus of Sophocles, though the Master was too wise to say so. Thus "Caliban upon Setebos," so far from being a satire on Christianity, furnishes, on the contrary, the most cogent collateral testimony in its favour.

It is contended that in "La Saisiaz" Browning speaks immediately in his own person, and that the result arrived at in "La Saisiaz" is pure Deism. My own impression of this poem is that it presents an exact parallel to Montaigne's "Apologie de Raimond Sebond." It simply demonstrates the futility of human reason when attempting to grapple with problems insoluble by reason. It is, like Montaigne's Essay, a conclusive and unanswerable demonstration of the necessity of revelation if man is to

be assured of what he desires, and to have that veil raised which otherwise death, and death only, can withdraw. As the next step to the position assumed by Dryden in his "Religio Laici" was the step he actually took—namely, the adoption of the creed of Rome—so, I contend, the logical sequence of the position assumed in "La Saisiaz" would be to take precisely the same step. Again, the central point, the gist and nucleus of Browning's philosophy of life, may be said to be summed up in that couplet in the "Ring and the Book," "Life is probation, and the earth no goal but starting point for man." The first article of this creed is, of course, essentially Christian, if also Platonic; it is Butler's solution of the problem of life. In the second article there is nothing incompatible with the teachings of Christianity, and if it be not expressly included in these teachings, it is, to say the least, a perfectly legitimate expansion of them. It says much for the vitality of our national creed that the only two poets of our time who are worth very serious consideration should not only have regarded it with a reverence so profound and so scrupulous, but should have laboured so anxiously to uphold it, to illustrate and interpret its truth, its beauty, and its efficacy.

Mr. Berdoo deserves all success in his attempt to popularize Browning's religious teaching, and I can heartily recommend his book, not perhaps to advanced students of this poet—to whom the greater part of what Mr. Berdoo says will probably not be new—but to those who desire to be initiated in the serious study of a poet who exacts and will repay such study.

J. CHURTON COLLINS.

#### OUR NATIONAL ART.

WATER-COLOUR is an English speciality; it is an art that belongs to us; so we are naturally proud of it, and inclined to feel friendly towards it. From these premisses a variety of conclusions might follow. Our contemporary painters in water-colour, for instance, though they cannot all be geniuses, might, with their national advantages, show a thorough comprehension of the medium. They might be weighed down perhaps by the great past, crushed into a too slavish imitation of the masters; but they would presumably be on the right road. Again, as a public, we might be especially well trained in the appreciation of water-colour, though possibly a little too exacting, with Turner and Girtin behind us. There would exist a natural desire on the part of British subjects to try their hand at the national art; but the number of pictures exhibited would be kept small and select by a public of exacting buyers. So might an enthusiastic foreigner argue as he looked across Piccadilly at the noble façade which has captured for itself stucco masks of the great dead. But if he entered the galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water-Colours he would discover for the hundredth time that England cannot be argued about. Plain facts would force him to the conclusion, unattainable by abstract reasoning, that the British public is so fond of the national art that everything is forgiven to a thing in a frame so long as an expert can swear it is a water-colour.

Water-colour art is divided into three parts—figure pictures, landscapes, and still-life, preferably books. A figure picture ought to be large, and the surface of face, legs and arms must be of the texture of blotting-paper, or rather must resemble the peculiar surface of a photograph which has been touched up with innumerable tiny spots. On no account must it look as if a wet brush had passed over a clean, pleasant sheet of paper. The colour must be so thoroughly and evenly ground in that one would imagine the picture had been manufactured in somewhat the same fashion as they create hats by blowing a draught of felt particles upon a given shape. A landscape must be of such a dull subject as no one would admire in an oil-painting, the colour and composition must be quite uninteresting, and the medium should be hidden as much as possible, except there be some coarse and obstreperous weeds by the Vice-President in the foreground. These weeds are a stamp of water-colour; we recognize them as an official label, so it is all right. The only merit required of books, of course, is that we should be able to read the



print if they are open, and feel the calf or parchment if they are shut.

Now, if the Royal Institute Exhibition were only shockingly bad there would be little to say. The statement of the fact would not even serve as news. But the cruel thing about the badness is that it is not shocking. We have grown so used to such pictures that they rouse no indignation. We have fallen into the hopeless habit of thinking them orthodox, academic, traditional. The epidemic of red stars in the corners reminds us that what people ask of pictures is that they should leave the spectator alone, that they should be familiar and safe. But how do these pictures come to be safe—from what orthodox quarter have the painters received their traditions? Do the exhibitors at the Royal Institute trace their methods back to Turner? Or is it possible that Painters in Water-Colour have never seen Turner's drawings in the National Gallery, in spite of the fact that Ruskin, by whom all England swears, has spent the most precious of his energy in urging a view of them? The National Gallery is open every day, on Thursdays and Fridays after eleven on payment of sixpence; and the Turner water-colour rooms are downstairs on the right. It is surely a matter for astonishment that we who possess the world's models in water-colour should produce and buy half a thousand and more works of the R.I. calibre. Is not the one quality which flies its colours triumphantly in Turner's drawings just what the R.I. rigorously suppresses—a sympathy with the medium? The only sense of water-colour is that it should be water-colour, and the meaning of the truism is more obvious in this than in any other art. Water-colour is a narrower affair than oil-colour, and the more restricted a medium is the more imperious are the demands it makes on its own behalf. Water-colour is a tyrannical mistress, and the first thing a painter has to do is to lend himself to her caprices. His chief preoccupation must be to give expression to her peculiarities; and only if he is willing to do this will she surrender. He cannot force and browbeat and stipple and harry her into expressing what he wishes to say; he must, lover-like, play at perfect submission—his wishes must be her wishes. The restraint, if there is restraint, must be on his side, on his wishes; she will not be constrained. His joy must be not so much in his own music as in her voice. And when the painter understands this, she surrenders herself entirely and with the easiest and most fascinating grace, the laughing grace that is in Turner's drawings of Venice or his "Coasting Vessels," the most exquisite and effortless things that are to be seen in the world. Water-colour rewards the artist's submission by giving him certain beauties unattainable in oil. Turner was a genius, and we do not expect any exhibitor at the R.I. to be that; but we do expect them to try at least to play the game, to behave a little more diplomatically, as men of the world, in their attempts to catch this butterfly. Or if this is still too much to ask, at least the public ought to be shocked at their clumsiness, instead of acquiescing in it as the orthodox and traditional manner. It is to be feared that if Turner's water-colours were set before the visitors at the R.I. they would be scared by their audacity, that kind of painting would be too new for them; the pictures show no care, and they are disturbing; they call out to be looked at. Whereas the first merit of a picture is that it should not be a nuisance, and the second is that it should show that the idle lout of a painter has taken some trouble to earn his money. Turner did not bother to rub out his pencil marks, and sometimes the man did not even take the ordinary precaution of bringing his colour flush up to these pencil lines. And as for Girtin, in one of his tiniest water-colours of an old house he has marked off the discoloured patch on the wall with the most swaggering of pencil lines. Certainly the best Girtins in the British Museum would be discomforting too in the R.I.; the "Westminster Abbey and Lambeth Palace," for instance, with its epigrammatic drawing stained with colour, or the translucence of the washes in "The Albion Mills after the Fire."

Turner and Girtin both made a great deal of capital out of their drawings in pencil or red ink or whatever it might be. There is no drawing at all in the R.I., no

drawing at least that was meant to play a part in the finished picture. Turner sometimes thought well to leave a stroke of paint to stand on its own merits; you could not collect a dozen strokes of paint from the six hundred odd works in the R.I. At other times Turner was extremely watery; there are, perhaps, ten pictures in the R.I. that have any wateriness in them. Girtin's tints in his "Knaresborough Castle" are so pellucid that his castle looks as if it might one day float up. The pictures in the R.I. are as dead and heavy as lead. Turner often valued the bare paper; and one of the most astonishing of Girtin's effects, the two sailing boats in shadow with a middle boat further away in sunlight, was obtained by the same sparing of effort. The shadowed foreground is luminous brown, the sunlit sea and its boat is left white. This minute picture is a record for bigness of effect, effect gained by the superb trick of doing nothing. We doubt if any of the exhibitors at the R.I. have been so careless as to leave any of their paper blank. Now these things are the tricks of tradition, the tricks of the accepted masters in the national art. It is, then, peculiar that the exhibitors at the R.I. (it is true the heads of Girtin and Turner are hidden this spring by the scaffolding—maybe they are coming down) know nothing of these tricks. No doubt it is to the moral credit of Englishmen that they refuse to catch up tricks, even the tricks without which no great water-colour has yet been painted. It does not say much for their intelligence; but there is a certain honesty in leaving the tricks to their few contemporaries who also possess other qualifications. And their hard work, too, must be counted to them for righteousness; because the using of water-colour as if it were water-colour is the easiest and most natural way to paint water-colours. It is a virtue in them that they have laboured so hard at the difficult and repugnant task of hiding the qualities of their medium. And water-colour rewards them by crowning their works with a peculiar ugliness unattainable in oil. Only fancy what a little carelessness might spoil everything, what precautions are needed. If the President had by accident allowed a drop of water to fall on his "Jessica," it might have revealed the fact that the picture was a water-colour.

The one explanation of the R.I. that suggests itself is that the majority of the exhibitors began painting in water-colour because it was less messy and needed fewer properties than oil. They continued with water-colour, perhaps, because it paid; and it will continue to pay. The public will buy these pictures because they are familiar. The point to be remarked is that familiar is not the same as traditional or orthodox. Familiar means bad; good work is always new and startling. Bad work is born old and familiar, it needs no long genealogy to recommend it. Our love for it, our feeling of friendliness towards it, belong to the inherent wickedness of humanity. We fall on the neck of a man who does bad work and sob out, "Brother, I know thee of old!"

#### INTELLIGENCE ON MARS.

YEAR after year, when politics cease from troubling, there recurs the question as to the existence of intelligent, sentient life on the planet Mars. The last outcrop of speculations grew from the discovery by M. Javelle of a luminous projection on the southern edge of the planet. The light was peculiar in several respects, and, among other interpretations, it was suggested that the inhabitants of Mars were flashing messages to the conjectured inhabitants of the sister-planet, Earth. No attempt at reply was made; indeed, supposing our Astronomer-Royal, with our best telescope, transported to Mars, a red riot of fire running athwart the whole of London would scarce be visible to him. The question remains unanswered, probably unanswerable. There is no doubt that Mars is very like the earth. Its days and nights, its summers and winters differ only in their relative lengths from ours. It has land and oceans, continents and islands, mountain ranges and inland seas. Its polar regions are covered with snows, and it has an atmosphere and clouds, warm sunshine and gentle rains. The spectroscope, that subtle analyst of the most distant stars, gives us

reason to believe that the chemical elements familiar to us here exist on Mars. The planet, chemically and physically, is so like the earth that, as protoplasm, the only living material we know, came into existence on the earth, there is no great difficulty in supposing that it came into existence on Mars. If reason be able to guide us, we know that protoplasm, at first amorphous and un-integrated, has been guided on this earth by natural forces into that marvellous series of forms and integrations we call the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Why, under the similar guiding forces on Mars, should not protoplasm be the root of as fair a branching tree of living beings, and bear as fair a fruit of intelligent, sentient creatures?

Let us waive objections, and suppose that, beginning with a simple protoplasm, there has been an evolution of organic forms on the planet Mars, directed by natural selection and kindred agencies. Is it a necessary, or even a probable, conclusion that the evolution would have culminated in a set of creatures with sense-perception at all comparable to that of man? It will be seen at once that this raises a complicated, and as yet insoluble, problem—a problem in which, to use a mathematical phrase, there are many independent variables. The organs of sense are parts of the body, and, like bodies themselves and all their parts, present forms which are the result of an almost infinite series of variations, selections, and rejections. Geographical isolation, for instance, has been one of the great modifying agencies. Earth movements, the set of currents, and the nature of rocks acting together have repeatedly broken up land-masses into islands, and, quite independently of other modifying agencies, have broken up groups of creatures into isolated sets, with the result that these isolated sets have developed in diverging lines. He would be a bold zoologist who should say that existing animals and plants would have been as they are to-day had the distribution of land and water in the cretaceous age been different. Since the beginning of the chalk, all the great groups of mammals have separated from the common indifferent stock, and have become moulded into men and monkeys, cats and dogs, antelopes and deer, elephants and squirrels. It would be the wildest dream to suppose that the recurrent changes of sea and land, of continent and islands, that have occurred since the dawn of life on the earth, had been at all similar on Mars. Geographical distribution is only one of a vast series of independently varying changes that has gone to the making of man. Granted that there has been an evolution of protoplasm upon Mars, there is every reason to think that the creatures on Mars would be different from the creatures of earth, in form and function, in structure and in habit, different beyond the most bizarre imaginings of nightmare.

If we pursue the problem of Martian sensation more closely, we shall find still greater reason for doubting the existence of sentient beings at all comparable with ourselves. In a metaphysical sense, it is true, there is no external world outside us; the whole universe from the furthest star to the tiniest chemical atom is a figment of our brain. But in a grosser sense, we distinguish between an external reality and the poor sides of it that our senses perceive. We think of a something not ourselves, at the nature of which we guess, so far as we smell, taste, touch, weigh, see, and hear. Are these senses of ours the only imaginable probes into the nature of matter? Has the universe no facets other than those she turns to man? There are variations even in the range of our own senses. According to the rate of its vibrations, a sounding column of air may be shrilled up, or boomed down beyond all human hearing; but, for each individual, the highest and lowest audible notes differ. Were there ears to hear, there are harmonies and articulate sounds above and below the range of man. The creatures of Mars, with the slightest anatomical differences in their organs, might hear, and yet be deaf to what we hear—speak, and yet be dumb to us. On either side the visible spectrum into which light is broken by a prism there stretch active rays, invisible to us. Eyes in structure very little different to ours might see, and yet be blind to what we see. So is it with all the senses; and, even granted that the unimaginable crea-

tures of Mars had sense-organs directly comparable with ours, there might be no common measure of what they and we hear and see, taste, smell, and touch. Moreover it is an extreme supposition that similar organs and senses should have appeared. Even among the animals of this earth, we guess at the existence of senses not possessed by ourselves. Our conscious relations to the environment are only a small part of the extent to which the environment affects us, and it would be easy to suggest possible senses different to ours. With creatures whose evolution had proceeded on different lines, resulting in shapes, structures and relations to environment impossible to imagine, it is sufficiently plain that appreciation of the environment might or must be in a fashion inscrutable to us. No phase of anthropomorphism is more naïve than the supposition of men on Mars. The place of such a conception in the world of thought is with the anthropomorphic cosmogonies and religions invented by the childish conceit of primitive man.

#### THE "MATTHEW" PASSION AND THE "JOHN."

THE "John" Passion and the "Matthew" Passion of Bach are as little alike as two works dealing with the same subject, and intended for performance under somewhat similar conditions, could possibly be; and since the "Matthew" version appeals to the modern heart and imagination as an ideal setting of the tale of the death of the man of sorrows, one is apt to follow Spitta in his curious mistake of regarding the differences between the two as altogether to the disadvantage of the "John." Spitta, indeed, goes further than this. So bent is he on proving the superiority of the "Matthew" that what he sees as a masterstroke in that work is in the "John" a gross blunder; and on the whole, the pages on the "John" Passion are precisely the most fatuous of the many fatuous pages he wrote when he plunged into artistic criticism, leaving his own proper element of technical or historical criticism. This is a pity, for Spitta really had a very good case to spoil. The "Matthew" is without doubt a vaster, profounder, more moving and lovelier piece of art than the "John." Indeed, being the later work of a composer whose power grew steadily from the first until the last time he put pen to paper, it could not be otherwise. But the critic who, like Spitta, sees in it only a successful attempt at what was attempted unsuccessfully in the "John" seems to me to mistake the aim both of the "John" and the "Matthew." The "John" is not in any sense unsuccessful, but a complete, consistent and masterly achievement; and if it stands a little lower than the "Matthew," if the "Matthew" is mightier, more impressive, more overwhelming in its great tenderness, this is not because the Bach who wrote in 1722-3 was a bungler or an incomplete artist, but because the Bach who wrote in 1729 was inspired by a loftier idea than had come to the Bach of 1723. It is only necessary to compare the impression one received when the "John" Passion was sung by the Bach Choir on the evening of 24 March with that received at the "Matthew" performance in St. Paul's last Tuesday evening, to realize that it is in idea, not in power of realizing the idea, that the two works differ—differ more widely than might seem possible, seeing that the subject is the same and that the same musical forms, chorus, chorale, song and recitative, are used in each.

The Bach Choir concert was a slow affair, redeemed by the extremely fine singing of Mr. Andrew Black and Mr. David Bispham. When Mr. Black sang in the "Matthew" performance last year it seemed to me that Bach was entirely beyond him; but either this was a mistake on my part or Mr. Black has since caught up with the "Leipzig cantor." Certainly his singing in "Eilt, ihr angeforch'nen Seelen" and "Mein theurer Heiland" was much the finest work of the evening. Mr. Bispham had little to do and was sadly hampered in doing that little; for he sang the part of Jesus against an unjustifiable organ accompaniment (the notion apparently being to make Jesus a High Church curate, a conception which is surely historically wrong); yet he managed to give one moments in such recitatives



as "Es ist vollbracht" and "Habe ich übel geredet." As for the other vocalists, Mr. Cornelius Bakkes, who was brought from Germany to teach our English tenors—Messrs. Edward Lloyd, Ben Davies and William Shakespeare, I presume—how Bach should be sung, had better have stayed at home; Miss Fillunger—a soprano whom I shall never cease to admire—is not within many leagues of understanding Bach; and Miss Hilda Wilson is still further off than Miss Fillunger. The chorus acquitted itself exactly as I had anticipated in the gentler choruses, and outran my most extravagant hopes in the chorales, but sang with really admirable energy and precision in the choruses of the people. It may be in part owing to this last fact that, waking on the morrow of the concert, my memory was principally filled with those hoarse, stormy, passionate roarings of an enraged mob—in part, but not entirely. A hasty reckoning shows that whereas the people's choruses in the "Matthew" Passion occupy about ninety bars, in the "John" they fill about two hundred and fifty. "Barabbas" in the "Matthew" is a single yell, and in the "John" it takes up four bars. "Let him be crucified" in the "Matthew" is eighteen bars long, counting the repetition, while "Crucify" and "Away with Him" in the "John" amount to fifty bars. Moreover, the people's choruses are written in a much more violent and tempestuous style in the earlier than in the later setting. In the "Matthew" there is nothing like those terrific ascending and descending chromatic passages in "Wäre [dieser nicht ein Ubelthäter]" and "Wir dürfen Niemand tödten," or the short breathless shouts near the finish of the former chorus, as though the infuriated rabble had nearly exhausted itself, or again the excited chattering of the soldiers when they get Christ's coat, "Lasst uns den nicht zertheilen." Considering these things, one sees that the first impression the "John" Passion gives is the true impression, and that Bach had deliberately set out to depict the preliminary scenes of the crucifixion with greater fullness of detail and in more striking colours than he afterwards attempted in the "Matthew" Passion. Then, not only is the physical suffering of Christ insisted on in this way, but the chorales, recitatives and songs lay still greater stress upon it, either directly, by actual description, or indirectly, by uttering with unheard of poignancy the remorse supposed to be felt by mankind whose guilt occasioned that suffering. The central point in the two Passions is the same, namely, the backsliding of Peter; and in each the words "He went out and wept bitterly" are given the greatest prominence; but one has only to compare, or rather to contrast, the acute agony expressed in the song "Ach, mein Sinn," which follows the incident in the "John," with the sweetness of "Have mercy upon me," which follows it in the "Matthew," to gain a fair notion of the spirit in which the one work, and also the spirit in which the other, is written. The next point to note is that while the "Matthew" begins with lamentation and ends with resignation, "John" begins and ends with hope and praise. In the former there is no chorus like the opening, "Herr, unser Herrscher," no chorale so triumphant as "Ach, grosser König," and certainly no single passage so rapturous as "Alsdann vom Tod erwecke mich, Dass meine Augen sehen dich, In aller Freud, o Gottes Sohn" (with the bass mounting to the high E flat). So in the "John" Passion Bach has given us, first, a vivid picture of the turbulent crowd and of the suffering and death of Christ; second, an expression of man's bitterest remorse, and last and above all, an expression of man's hope for the future and his thankfulness to Christ who redeemed him. These are what one remembers after hearing the work sung; and these, it may be remarked, are the things that the seventeenth and eighteenth century mind chiefly saw in the sorrow and death of Jesus of Nazareth.

After the yearly performance of a selection from the "Matthew" Passion music in St. Paul's, one's impressions are of a very different kind. So far as it goes, that performance is all but perfect. Certainly one would prefer to hear "Grief for sin" and "Jesu, Saviour" and "See, the Saviour's outstretched arm" sung by women instead of by small choirs of boys; and the gentlemen who take the part of Jesus, and Judas, and so on, are not always so good one year as they were

the year before. But these are the conditions under which the work is given in the cathedral, and such defects as result from the conditions count for next to nothing against the choruses of people and priests, sung with magnificent dramatic force under the masterly direction of Dr. Martin. The chorales too, sung by the whole congregation, make an effect which is fine in its sort. And though Dr. Martin has little time allowed him for rehearsal there is nothing slipshod in the performance. The tremendous upward sweep of the basses in the sixth bar of the opening chorus is given its due crescendo; the choral interrogations in "See the Saviour's outstretched arm" are cleanly and delicately enunciated; "Now doth the Lord" is sung with the utmost tenderness; and the only fault that can be found with the evening's entertainment is that enough of the work is not rendered. But under whatever conditions it may be heard, the "Matthew" Passion arouses a very different mood from that aroused by the "John." One does not remember the turbulent people's choruses, nor the piercing note of anguish, nor any song of rapture; for all else is drowned in the recollection of an overwhelming utterance of love and human sorrow and infinite tenderness. Much else there is in the "Matthew" Passion, just as there is love and tenderness in the "John"; but just as those are subordinated in the "John" to the more striking features I have mentioned, so in the "Matthew" the noise of the people and the expression of keen remorse are subordinated to them. The small number and conciseness of the people's choruses I have already alluded to, and it may easily be shown that the penitential music is brief compared with the love music, besides having a great deal of the love, the yearning love, feeling in it. The list of penitential pieces is exhausted when I have mentioned "Come ye daughters," "Guilt for sin," "Break and die," "O Grief," "Alas! now is my Saviour gone," and "Have mercy upon me"; and on the other hand we have "Thou blessed Saviour," the Last Supper music, the succeeding recitative and song, "Oh man, thy heavy sin lament," "To us he hath done all things," "For love my Saviour suffered," "Come blessed Cross," and "See the Saviour's outstretched arm," every one of which, not to speak of some other songs and most of the chorales, is sheer love music of the purest sort. It will be seen then that the "Matthew" Passion is entirely different in conception from its predecessor. In the "John" Bach tried to purge his audience in the regular evangelical manner by pity and terror and hope. But in six years his spiritual development was so amazing that while remaining intellectually faithful to evangelical dogma and perhaps such bogies as the devil and hell, he yet saw that the best way of purifying his audience was to set Jesus of Nazareth before them as the highest type of manhood he knew, as the man who so loved men that he died for them. There is therefore in the "Matthew" Passion neither the blank despair nor the feverish ecstasy of the "John," for they have no part to play there. Human sorrow and human love are the themes. Fresh from a fine rendering of the "Matthew" Passion, it seems to me that no composer, not even Mozart, could be more tender than Bach. It is often hard to get into communication with him, for he often appeals to feelings that no longer stir humanity—such, for instance, as the obsolete "sense of sin"—but once it is done, he works miracles. Take, for example, the scene in which Jesus tells his disciples that one of them will betray him. They ask, in chorus, "Herr, bin ich's?" There is a pause and the chorale "Ich bin's, ich sollte büßen" is thundered out by congregation and organ; then the agony passes away at the thought of the redeemer, and the last line, "Das hat verdient meine Seel," is almost intolerable in its sweetness. The songs of course appeal naturally to-day to all who will listen to them; but it is in such passages as this that Bach spoke most powerfully to his generation, and speaks now to those who will learn to understand him. Those who understand him can easily perceive the "John" Passion to be a powerful artistic embodiment of an eighteenth century idea; and they may also perceive that the "Matthew" is greater, because it is, on the whole, a little more beautiful, and because its main idea—which so far

passed the eighteenth century understanding that the eighteenth century preferred the "John"—is one of the loftiest that has yet visited the human mind.

J. F. R.

#### MARY ANDERSON.\*

THIS book is an actress's confession: consequently I should not, under ordinary circumstances, dream of believing a word of it. Nevertheless I do believe it, because I cannot find the actress in it any more than I was ever able to find her in the Mary Anderson who danced down to the Lyceum footlights like "a wave o' the sea" nearly ten years ago. What I do find is a strong-minded, clever, intelligent, self-reliant, and self-respectful girl whose hobby was Shakspeare. The statement that Mary Anderson was no actress is one which I am prepared to make, but not to defend. If I meet an American tourist who is greatly impressed with the works of Raphael, Kaulbach, Delaroche, and Barry, and I, with Titian and Velasquez in my mind, tell him that not one of his four heroes was a real painter, I am no doubt putting my case absurdly; but I am not talking nonsense for all that: indeed to the adept seer of pictures I am only formulating a commonplace in an irritatingly ill-considered way. But in this world if you do not say a thing in an irritating way, you may just as well not say it at all, since nobody will trouble themselves about anything that does not trouble them. The attention given to a criticism is in direct proportion to its indigestibility; and I therefore say boldly that Mary Anderson was no actress. In no page of these Memories can you find any trace of the actress's temperament. Mary Anderson is essentially a woman of principle, which the actress essentially is not: the notion that all bravery, loyalty, and self-respect depend on a lawless and fearless following of the affectionate impulses—which is the characteristic morality of the artist, especially the woman artist of the stage—is, to her, simple immorality. The actress lives only to give herself away so that she may gain the love of the whole world: Mary Anderson, asking what it shall profit her to gain the whole world if she loses her own soul, retires or rather recoils from the stage before her apprenticeship is over, because she cannot gratify her love of Shakspeare and rhetoric without giving herself away to the public nightly to be stared at. To her this grudging of herself is a virtue—an element of strength of character: it vanquishes her stage-craze finally because she does not see that a woman with the fit genius can do nothing better for the world than make this sacrifice to it. The full justification of such a sacrifice—the power to become thereby the mother of the world's noblest sympathies and deepest feelings—cannot convince her: it is perceived by her reason as a duty, an excuse, and (when performed and done with) a consolation; but it does not glow at her heart as a passion and a fulfilment. The individualist in her triumphs in the end: the inner mandate which she finally obeys is "Individual, perfect thyself," which finally triumphs over all other mandates—over "Artist, perfect thy work," and "Woman, help thy kind." Here is her whole confession on the subject:—

"While on my way to England I could not help reviewing the eight years I had just finished. The retrospect brought as much pain as pleasure. The chief good my work had accomplished, I felt, was the assurance, verbally and by letter, from many young men and women, that the examples of such characters as Parthenia, Ion, and Evadne, in particular, had helped them in their daily lives and strengthened them in moments of despondency and temptation. Their gratitude to me, as the humble exponent of these rôles, was my most valued applause; for it proved that, in a measure, I had fulfilled the vocation, so long ago dreamed of, in undertaking a dramatic career. My efforts had, as a rule, been successful; but the strain of constant travel, the absence of home comforts in the ever-changing hotels, the responsibility of rehearsals, support, stage-management, and, above all, the extreme publicity of the life, had already begun to be distasteful to me. The disappointments connected with the art

itself—the painting one's pictures with one's own person, in the full gaze of the public, the dependence upon inartistic people (often compelled to use the theatre as a trade) for carrying out the most cherished conceptions, and the constant crumbling of ideals—made me, young as I was, long to leave the stage for the peace and privacy of domestic life. I had a greater desire than ever to work, but away from the direct eye of the public. The life of a poet, composer, writer, or painter seemed ideal; for they could express their innermost thoughts through the impersonal mediums of canvas, music, literature, and still be protected by that privacy which is so dear to most women."

Here you have the whole position: the cold sense of duty steadily weakening instead of warming from its first record in her autobiography as the mere priggishness of a stage-struck schoolgirl to her retirement, and the conception of musicians and poets as exceptionally private persons minding their own innermost business in a vacuum, instead of strenuously throwing themselves into the most yearning and vital intercourse with humanity. Here is a passage which will drive home, as no comment of mine could, the absolute *deadness* of Mary Anderson's conception of artistic beauty:—"I remember a visit to the studio of one of the most prominent French sculptors in Paris. After seeing everything in both of the huge ateliers, Lord Lytton, a singularly able critic in all matters artistic, suggested a visit to the Morgue as a means of driving from our minds the hideous creations we had seen. We gladly assented; and, indeed, the three or four figures we saw there were far more beautiful, with the calm majesty of death upon them, than any of the representations of life we had seen in the studio."

The really compelling mandate which sent Madame de Navarro forth on her career seems to have been "Mary: be not thyself, but somebody out of Shakspeare," conditioned only by an inexorable resolution to be first or nowhere. When she was an unknown country girl of sixteen she managed to induce John McCullough to visit her family. On hearing her spout her favourite bits of Shakspeare, he had the enormous good-nature to offer to allow her to try her hand on the stage as Lady Anne in "Richard III." "I answered," this "humble exponent" tells us (with a full sense of the humour of her audacity), "that I would rather not play second fiddle, even to him." It was magnificent; and she lived up to it and went through with it. The position she wanted to begin with (in her teens) was that of Mrs. Siddons. It is useless to gasp at such presumption; for she got what she demanded. She knew that it was childish to cry for the moon; so she simply said, with quiet dignity, "Be good enough to take that moon down from its nail and hand it to me." Which was accordingly done. The world which once sent Mrs. Siddons back to the provinces as a failure prostrated itself like a doormat to kiss the feet of Our Mary.

It may be said that this success was nothing more than the vogue of a very pretty woman; but Mary Anderson was neither the only pretty woman who wanted to be Mrs. Siddons nor the prettiest. The live statue of Galatea was a most graceful ornament, no doubt; but it was a statue for all that; and the public neither cares nor dares to fall in love with statues. No: "Our Mary" was not a beauty merely: she was an ideal. We made a type of her, just as we made a type of Mr. Gladstone; and though the type was the work of our imagination, and Miss Anderson was no more our ideal Mary than Mr. Gladstone is our ideal Grand Old Man, yet it was a certain force and integrity of character in themselves that led to their being selected for idealization. There is plenty of other evidence of this force of character in Madame de Navarro's book. She could work; she could endure; she had a way and a will of her own; she could plan and execute enterprises; she could make friends and hold her own among the ablest people of her day; she was sensible and respectable in business and conduct (an extraordinarily rare thing both on and off the stage); she was normal, popular, and intelligible in her methods and ambition; and, being young, she exercised her qualities without the oppressive and sometimes dan-

\* "A Few Memories." By Mary Anderson (Madame de Navarro). London: Osgood, McIlvaine & Co. 1896.



gerous knowledge of their power which comes with years and with the discovery of the comparative infirmity of the rest of the world. A strong, proud, positive character of this kind, enhanced by a fine person, lends itself to declamation and rhetoric, but not to sympathetic acting. Its jealous reserve, its reluctance to wear its heart on its sleeve, its very superiorities to the passions and frailties, the humiliations, confessions, and renunciations of the truly poetic drama, which has for its material the instinctive human creature rather than the moralist and reasoner, disqualify it for the stage, except when the business in hand is rhetorical blank verse in five acts. "Seldom during my stage life," says Madame de Navarro, "have I ever been able to say of any performance, 'That is my best work.' In all my years before the public, I have only once been satisfied with my acting of Bianca, once in *Ion*, never in *Perdita*, and only once in *Hermione*." With this must be taken many other passages in her book, showing her strong preference of rhetorical and intellectual parts to sympathetic ones, even when both were by Shakspeare; her enthusiasm for stage antiquaries like Talfourd and Taylor; and her antipathy to the modern dramatists whose Heddas and Noras are making short work of the declamatory statue heroines. Her final criticism on herself, of course, is her retirement from the stage before she had reached the prime of life, or attained that rich and spirited middle period of artistic development which succeeds the efforts of the ambitious apprentice. The reason she gives is significant enough. "Many and great inducements," she says, "have since been frequently offered me to act again; but

"Il en coûte trop cher pour briller dans le monde.  
Combien je vais aimer ma retraite profonde!  
Pour vivre heureux, vivons cachés."

Note how she assumes, this girl who thinks she has been an artist, that the object of going on the stage is to sparkle in the world, and that the object of life is happiness! After all, despite her character and force, one sees that Our Mary has never grown up—that Galatea has never been awakened. I cannot help wondering what would happen if she were. The other day, in a discussion as to the best way of casting Ibsen's "Little Eyolf," a question arose as to who should play the part of Asta, failing the co-operation of some tried exponent of Ibsen. I said, "Why not Mary Anderson?" I could not persuade any one that I was serious. And yet, why not? Madame de Navarro has declaimed, spouted, statuesqued, Shakspeared, and all the rest of it, to the height of her girlish ambition. She has also for seven years "lived hidden." Why should she not now try real acting, if only as a novelty? May not the publication of this book be taken as a sign that the charms that sages have seen in the face of seclusion are palling? It is true that Madame de Navarro says—and carries conviction when she says—"I am content to be forgotten, except by such friends as I hope will always keep a place for me in their hearts [a rather large exception, considering that these friends include the playgoing public of England and America]. But it seems to me reasonable to believe that my experience may be of some service to those who have, or think they have, an aptitude for acting. I have written these pages more for young girls, who may have the same ambitions that I had, than for any one else; to show them that all that glitters is not gold; and thus to do a little towards making them realize how serious an undertaking it is to adopt a life so full of hardships, humiliations, and dangers." This explains, and very honourably explains, a great part of the book; but where do those charming portraits come in? What moral are the young girls to draw from the profile drawing by F. D. Millet, the sketch in oils by Mr. Watts, the adorable photograph of Mary at sixteen, Mr. Boughton's Pauline portrait picture, the half-length in Albanian costume, and the 1895 photograph, the most womanly and beautiful of them all? I flatly do not believe that this portrait is exhibited to warn young girls against the hardships and dangers of the stage; I believe it is there solely to make us go down on our knees and beg Our Mary to come back to us. Which I accordingly do, without

reservation. I will never admit that the girl could act unless the woman makes me change my opinion.

The book contains many an interesting passage on which I have not space to expatiate. I may note hurriedly, but with much gratification, that Madame de Navarro's experience on several points supports views which I have often expressed in these columns. She precisely confirms all that I have urged against the old stationary stock companies; and she asks, as I have asked, why women do not try their hands at theatrical management. Her instructions how to baffle an actor-manager who gets you with your back to the footlights and talks down the stage at you should be studied by the whole company at the —Heavens! I all but let the name slip. The records of her very American searches after relics of Shakspeare and Dickens are quaint, and suggest, I regret to say, an almost inconceivable audacity of imposture on the part of those Britons who follow the industry of impersonating the originals of Dickens's characters and pointing out the houses mentioned in his novels. When she played *Rosalind* at Stratford-on-Avon, "the stage was decorated with blossoms from Shakspeare's garden; the flowers used by *Rosalind* and *Celia*, as well as the turnip gnawed by *Audrey*, had been plucked near *Anne Hathaway's* cottage; the deer carried across the stage in the hunting chorus had been shot in *Charlot Park* for the occasion by one of the *Lucys*." Bless her innocence!

I close the book with its subject unexhausted, just as the author did. The life of the girl rhetorician is only the first volume. The second volume should be the life of a true dramatic artist. If Madame de Navarro will only live that volume, I, the critic, will gladly write it in these pages.

G. B. S.

## MONEY MATTERS.

THE supply of money was so abundant during the week that, in spite of the China Loan, rates were scarcely affected by the strong demand for money on Tuesday and Wednesday. Day-to-day loans were arranged at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and loans for short periods at  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 per cent. The Discount Market was steady, and rates remained unchanged at  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. for three months' bills,  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. for four months', and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for six months'. The Bank rate remained at 2 per cent. The holidays naturally had their effect on Stock Exchange transactions, and little or no business was done. The resignation of M. Berthelot temporarily affected the Foreign Market, which, however, quickly recovered as the belief gained ground that the political situation with regard to Egypt had not become more serious. Prices in most Stock Exchange departments were firm, although the markets were neglected; but South African securities were adversely influenced by the news of the Matabele rising. With regard to the new Chinese Loan, an instalment of 65 per cent. by the 15th inst. is not exactly encouraging for "stags"; but, money being so abundant, it is not surprising to hear that the five millions allotted to London have been subscribed twice over. As a speculative investment a Chinese Five per Cent. at 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ , with yearly drawings at par, does not look very promising for the present, after the big profit stuck on by the contractors and the syndicate. The premium on the new Loan went up at one time to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , then it went down to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and further declined on Wednesday to 1. Home Government securities were steady, and closed on Wednesday at 109 $\frac{1}{2}$  for money, and 109 $\frac{1}{2}$  for the account.

Buying for investment and favourable traffic returns gave firmness to Home Railways, and there were a few transactions. The North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Eastern, and South-Eastern lines showed good figures: the Brighton receipts were disappointing. American Railways were steady, but neglected so far as business was concerned. In the South American department the unexpected deficit in the Chilean Budget was a disagreeable surprise, and reacted upon Chilean Stocks. The gold premium in Argentina rose to 224 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and the prices of Argentine railways declined. "Brazilians" were featureless; the

Rio exchange was  $8\frac{3}{4}$ d. "Uruguays" were weaker. Canadian Pacific Shares and Grand Trunk Stocks fluctuated irregularly, with a weak tendency.

International stocks were affected by the Paris Settlement and all sorts of wild *canards*, but they were inclined to a rapid recovery, and, with the exception of Egyptian and Turkish stocks, prices stood on Wednesday as high, if not higher, than on Saturday last. About fifty-five years ago, during the reign of Tsar Nicholas I., his Finance Minister, M. Kankrin, converted the inflated paper currency at the rate of 5 old roubles for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  new roubles = 1 rouble silver. And now M. de Witte proposes to repeat the operation by re-converting the above-mentioned  $3\frac{1}{2}$  roubles into  $1\frac{1}{2}$  new roubles = 1 rouble gold—a ratio which represents the actual depreciation of the banknotes. At the same time, the gold basis of the coinage is to be altered, and the new coin is to be adapted to its paper value—which means something like issuing sovereigns of 20s. worth intrinsically only 13s. 4d. Whether the prohibition of gold export is to be rescinded at last is not mentioned, so far. Although Rio Tinto have nothing to do with politics, they always follow the fluctuations of the international stocks, and after declining below 18, they touched 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  on Wednesday. Silver returned to 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., and Rupee-paper was easier at about 63 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The South African Market has of late been the sport of fiction-mongers, who for their own ends have recklessly spread the wildest rumours regarding events in the Transvaal. The nuisance has reached the point of being intolerable; and, unfortunately, such rogues and rascals of finance are not punishable by law. The news from Matabeleland, however, turned out to be genuine, and had at first a depressing influence all round. Prices became irregular; a few were above, and many below, last Saturday's quotations. At the meeting of "the Consolidated Goldfields" the bonus of 100,000 shares to Messrs. Cecil Rhodes and D. Rudd was duly confirmed. The articles of association have been so cunningly contrived that the shareholders could not help themselves. The alternatives were to confirm the granting of the bonus or to go into liquidation.

#### NEW ISSUES, &c.

##### ASSOCIATED SOUTHERN GOLD MINES (W.A.) LIMITED.

###### A "JOINT-STOCK INSTITUTE" PROMOTION.

As the Joint-Stock Institute of Broad Street Avenue, E.C., is a mere "bucket-shop" concern, we think our readers would do well to regard with grave suspicion any scheme whatsoever which happens to be brought out under its auspices. The history of the Joint-Stock Institute is a curious one. Like a great many other "institutions" that we know of, it has sadly deteriorated, and the lofty and noble aspirations which dignified its initiatory manifestoes no longer find a place in its professions. Even the notorious H. M. Mackusick, who we believe made a praiseworthy effort to check the Joint-Stock Institute in its downward career, was glad to abandon the attempt and seek refuge in his own "Institute." The Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.) Limited is the latest exploit of the Joint-Stock Institute, and we advise our readers to have nothing whatever to do with it. Investors who have already applied for shares in this company, in the mistaken belief that it comes from a reputable quarter, should bear in mind that it is possible for them to cancel their applications at any time before the promoters proceed to allotment. According to the prospectus of this company, it is being launched under the auspices of the Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia, Limited, and the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited. This information, which is printed in very large type at the head of the prospectus, is undoubtedly set forth with a view to giving the impression that the concerns named are solid and substantial, if not old-established, undertakings which are taking upon themselves the responsibility of issuing the new company. We are glad to be able to destroy such an erroneous impression. The fact is that both the companies named are promotions of the Joint-Stock Institute: one

of them is but twelve months old, and the other has not been in existence five months. It is thus that the enterprising company-promoter endeavours to lead the public astray. We see nothing in the prospectus of the Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.) Limited to commend it to the favourable consideration of investors. The company has been formed to purchase "mining leases" situated somewhere near the much-exploited "Hannan" district. Our readers know our opinion of many of these so-called "Hannan" properties, and, so far as we can see, this one is as worthless as any that we have yet set our face against.

##### THE WEST AUSTRALIAN "VENTURE" SYNDICATE.

###### SOME LINKS IN THE CHAIN.

Without troubling our readers with matters which scarcely concern them, we may shortly state that extraordinary efforts have been made by persons connected with the West Australian "Venture" Syndicate to induce us to suppress our criticisms of the various companies promoted by that combination. This, however, it is not our intention to do. It is alleged that there is no justification for our attacks, and that the companies we propose referring to are perfectly sound concerns. We willingly give publicity to these statements, though they do not influence us. We hold our own opinion about the matter, and have reason to think that there are circumstances in connexion with the companies in question which deserve to be inquired into. We now give a list of the various companies promoted and exploited by this so-called West Australian "Venture" Syndicate, together with the date of registration, amount of capital, and the names of the directors and officers, &c. &c. of each particular concern. It will be seen that we clearly establish a close relationship, not to say a strong family likeness, between these companies, and it is this that, in the first instance, we desire to do. The following is the list:—

West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited. Registered February 1895. Capital, £40,400; the £400 being "Founders'" shares.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

(As this was a "no prospectus" Company, the names of the directors, auditors, and solicitors are not available.)

West Australian Mines Development Syndicate, Limited. Registered April 1895. Capital, £40,400, the £400 being "Founders'" shares.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

(This, also, was a "no prospectus" Company.)

Anglo-German Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited. Registered May 1895. Capital, £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

H. J. Saunders, director.

Otto Stange, director.

R. Popkiss, director.

A. Oppenheimer, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

Anglo-French Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited. Registered May 1895. Capital, £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

Lord Douglas of Hawick, director.

J. Lletget-Sarda, director.

G. H. Collins, director.

L. G. Barber, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.



**Hannan's Main Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited.**  
Registered July 1895. Issued capital, £80,000.

Otto Stange, chairman.

E. W. Ayers, secretary.

(This being a "no prospectus" Company, further particulars are not available.)

**Anglo-American Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered August 1895.  
Capital £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

H. W. Lowe, director.

W. Marden, director.

A. Fraser, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**Anglo-Netherland Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered August 1895.  
Capital £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

W. M. Crocker, director.

G. H. Collins, director.

C. W. Groos, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**Golden Cement Claims, Limited.** Registered August 1895. Capital, £200,000.

H. W. Lowe, chairman.

H. Benbow, director.

S. Howmann, director.

R. Popkiss, director.

Otto Stange, director.

S. J. Edwards, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

**Anglo-Scandinavian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered September 1895.  
Capital £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

G. H. Collins, director.

J. Largerwall, director.

J. Milner Lennard, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**Anglo-Austrian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered September 1895.  
Capital £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

G. H. Collins, director.

C. C. Longridge, director.

H. J. Gurdon-Rebow, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**Anglo-Belgian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered September 1895.  
Capital £100,000 (£99,000 "ordinary," £1,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

G. H. Collins, director.

G. J. Du Cloux, director.

F. E. Oppenheim, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

S. A. Bird, manager.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**London and Continental Investment Corporation of Western Australia, Limited.** Registered October 1895. Capital, £1,000,000 (£990,000 "ordinary," £10,000 "deferred").

W. F. Orriss, chairman.

G. H. Collins, director.

H. W. Lowe, director.

Otto Stange, director.

H. S. Stoneham, director.

F. W. Baker, managing director.

E. Fairweather, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 3 Princes Street, E.C.

**Sugarloaf 25-Mile Cement Leases, Limited.** Registered January 1896. Capital, £140,000.

H. W. Lowe, chairman.

A. Chambers, director.

E. Schwarte, director.

N. J. Jackson, director.

G. J. Du Cloux, director.

S. J. Edwards, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 5 St. Mildred's Court, E.C.

**The 90-Mile Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited.** Registered March 1896. Capital, £200,000.

H. W. Lowe, chairman.

N. L. Jackson, director.

H. Benbow, director.

W. G. Brodie, director.

G. Abercromby, secretary.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

Offices: 5 St. Mildred's Court, E.C.

**"Block 50," Hampton Plains Estate, Limited.** Registered March 1896. Capital, £200,000.

Lord A. Butler, chairman.

R. Popkiss, director.

E. Heasman, director.

L. G. Barber, director.

W. P. Lapage, director.

Jenkins, Baker, & Co., solicitors.

Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co., auditors.

It must not be inferred that the foregoing list, lengthy as it is, includes all the Companies with which Mr. Otto Stange is connected, or all of those in regard to which Messrs. Monkhouse, Goddard, & Co. figure as auditors: there are many more than these, but we cannot deal with them just at present, being more immediately concerned with the promotions which have emanated from the "Venture" Syndicate.

#### "HUMBER CYCLE" FINANCE.

Unusual pressure upon our space again obliges us to postpone our promised remarks upon this subject; Mr. H. J. Lawson's letter is also unavoidably held over. These matters will be dealt with in our next issue. In the meantime we may mention that we have in no way altered our opinion of Mr. H. J. Lawson and his various promotions. Our readers should carefully avoid investing their money in Mr. Lawson's latest scheme, the Humber & Co. (Extension), Limited.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### "NATIONAL POOR-RATE."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

HAZELBUSH, YORK, March, 1896.

SIR,—In your article on the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture you state that the minority averse to the proposal that the Treasury should pay three-fourths of the parish rates of the agricultural occupiers, and they describe it as above. Why should not a national poor-rate be borne by the nation instead of the agricultural interest, which has borne it for years?

The Chairman's Report proves that an enormous breadth of land must have gone out of cultivation, for the rates, which are so much higher now, to produce £1,200,000 less than they did some years ago.—Yours faithfully,  
LEWIS BARSTOW.

## REVIEWS.

## PROBLEMS OF THE SOUDAN.

"Fire and Sword in the Sudan: a Personal Narrative of Fighting and Serving the Dervishes, 1879-1895." By Rudolf C. Slatin Pasha, C.B. Translated by Major F. R. Wingate, C.B. London: Edwin Arnold. 1896.

"Hausaland; or, Fifteen Hundred Miles through the Central Soudan." By Charles Henry Robinson. London: Sampson Low, Marston, & Co. 1896.

"A Naturalist in Mid-Africa: being an Account of a Journey to the Mountains of the Moon and Tanganyika." By G. F. Scott Elliot. London: A. D. Innes & Co. 1896.

EXCEPT that these books relate to Africa, it would appear at first impossible to find any point common to the three. They refer to different districts, one dealing with the Eastern and East Central Soudan, another with the Western Soudan (for the second title of Mr. Robinson's book is misleading), and the third with the Victoria Nyanza basin. They are by men of different professions, who worked with different aims: the first is by an Austrian soldier; the second by an English philologist, and the third by a Scotch naturalist. One is full of the gruesome horrors of barbaric war; one describes a peaceful journey for literary purposes through known country to an ancient city; the last is an account of a plucky piece of pioneer exploration among some of the primitive savages of British East Africa. But the three books agree in bearing testimony, direct or indirect, to the fact that of all African problems the most difficult and important is the future of the Soudan. For this vast region, twenty times as large as the Transvaal, and with thirty times as many inhabitants as that State, offers the most important African market for European manufactures. The peculiar importance of Slatin Pasha's book is due, not to its narrative, but to the fact that it gives us the only authentic information as to the present position of Mahdism; the Hausa Association sent Mr. Robinson to Kano to study the Hausa language, owing to its political importance as the *lingua franca* of the West Soudan; while Mr. Scott Elliot's longest chapter is devoted to calculations as to the best route to Uganda; and, so far, the main use of the Uganda road has been for the transport of military material of a character that can only be required for war against the Dervishes of the Soudan.

Slatin Pasha's book is bulky, but it is not a word too long, and it errs rather on the side of omission than of prolixity. It tells a dramatic story, the interest of which never flags. It opens with Slatin's appointment by Gordon to a position in Dafur, the most westerly of the three divisions of the Egyptian Soudan. It describes his life there, first as Mudir, and then as Governor. His account shows us that the Egyptians held the country much as we hold India—by a force numerically weak, but strong owing to the disunion of the subject tribes. A certain measure of civilization had been introduced into the country; roads had been made, wells dug, a telegraph service established, and trade organized. So long as the tribes were at loggerheads corrupt officials could safely fleece the people, and the administrators, in deference to English fads, could "cause widespread discontent," and "deprive the country of its means of obtaining labour" by interference with the slave-trade on injudicious lines. Slatin saw the need for gradual and careful treatment of slavery, and devoted his energies to pushing Egyptian influence further westward—a work he commenced without a thought of coming trouble. On 9 December, 1881, a religious teacher named Mohammed Ahmed massacred a force under Rashed Bey, which had been sent against him. Slatin was at once warned of this, but apparently thought little of it, and went on with his expedition. But the said Mohammed Ahmed, by posing as a religious reformer, and calling himself the Mahdi, introduced the one influence that could give to the wild Soudanese tribes a united purpose. Slatin tells again the story of the rise of this preacher; and his account gives us a better idea than any other of the inconceivable rapidity of the spread of the Mahdi's power. Slatin first heard of him in December 1881; but at

Christmas 1883 he was his prisoner. During the short intervening period every Egyptian garrison had capitulated or been massacred. El Obeid had fallen. Hicks's army had been annihilated, and the Mahdi had become supreme in the Soudan. Only Khartum held out; and thither Slatin was carried by his new master.

From this date Slatin tells us the story of the Soudan as seen from inside the house of the Mahdi's headman, the Khalifa Abdullahi. His style of writing is plain and simple, with no attempt at rhetoric effect. But its terseness and directness are most effective. The author carries us with him on the dreary march across Kordofan from El Obeid to Khartum. We share his feelings, more of sorrow than of anger, at the arrival and miserable death of that harebrained adventurer, Olivier Pain; we deplore with him the fatuity of Gordon's mission, and regret his ill-fated proclamation to the Soudanese—"that fatal proclamation which precipitated matters to an alarming extent," "that most grave political error," as Slatin calls it. Then we live with the author through the exciting period toward the end of the siege of Khartum; we share his excitement at the news of the British advance; we hear the wail of the Mahdi's soldiers when they learn of their defeats and losses at Gubat and Abu Klea; and we feel sick with horror when the question at the door of Slatin's tent—"Is not this the head of your uncle the unbeliever?"—closed that period of agony and suspense.

After this point the book becomes of less interest but of greater importance. The main facts so far were known. Henceforth Slatin is recording events of which we had little certain knowledge. Father Ohrwalder's "Ten Years in the Mahdi's Camp" brought knowledge of the principal events up to 1891, and since then the Egyptian intelligence department has been able to learn a good deal from native traders. But Slatin had far better opportunities than any of these. He describes the scene at the deathbed of the Mahdi; he knows all the intrigues in the Court of his successor; he throws a flood of light on the war with Abyssinia, to which, owing to the death of King John having cleared the way for the rise of the "Emperor" Menelik, the Italians owe their present troubles. As a personal attendant on the Khalifa, Slatin had exceptional facilities for knowing the condition of affairs in the Eastern Soudan. He enables us to trace the gradual decay of the religious spirit, until a struggle for liberty and religious reform resulted in a secular despotism, Oriental in its cruelty and reckless disregard of life. The history of the Khalifa's Court is the usual story of jealous intrigues, of the murder of suspects, of the introduction of foreign tribes to support the reigning power, of unsuccessful revolts and brutal massacres. Slatin himself had to submit to a succession of studied insults, which he had meekly to accept. At length, after twelve years' captivity, he escaped from Omdurman, and by a most adventurous ride crossed the desert to Assouan.

The last part of the book is not so well done as the others. The author has a thirst for revenge, which he apparently attempts neither to control nor conceal. When, therefore, he depicts the power of the Khalifa as broken, and predicts that on advance we should be welcomed as redeemers by the down-trodden tribes of the Soudan, we cannot but feel that the wish is father to the thought. He admits that the Khalifa has an army of over 100,000 men, armed with 40,000 rifles and 75 guns; and this is not a force to be despised when protected by the Soudanese deserts as by a natural moat. Nor do recent events support the idea that the union of the tribes is broken. For it is clear from Slatin's information that the extent of the friendly negro Sultanate of Wadai has been exaggerated, and Osman Digna seems as enterprising as ever.

But if Slatin thus furnishes unwilling testimony as to the difficult nature of the reconquest of the Soudan, his information as to French advances from the Ubanghi into the Bahr-el-Ghazl shows that the Government are not to be lightly blamed for their readiness to run a certain amount of risk.

If we give Mr. Robinson and Mr. Scott Elliot's books briefer notice than Slatin Pasha's, it is because they are less complete and not because they are less important.



Both authors were sent to Africa as scientific experts, and we might expect from them contributions of greater permanent value than from a soldier. But, unfortunately, we do not find in either book the information that we wanted. For example, Barth has already told us that the Hausa language is allied to Berber—i.e. is Hamitic. We expected Mr. Robinson to settle this point conclusively one way or the other. But he leaves us with the opinion that Hausa is "not improbably" a Hamitic language (p. 175); and in reference to the Hamitic group he remarks, with unnecessary caution, that "it has been suggested that this at present ill-defined group represents an earlier stream of immigration into Africa than the Semitic" (p. 180). Hence, as far as the present book goes, we are no further forward than where Barth left us. Similarly with Mr. Scott Elliot. He went to Africa to study plant-distribution, which has been a subject of great importance in that area ever since Hooker's paper in 1885. Mr. Scott Elliot gives us many conclusions on the subject, but not the facts on which those conclusions are based; so that we do not know their value. No doubt both authors thought their especial subjects too technical for popular books. They now give us the accounts of their journeys, with general chapters on various problems that interested them, and we must wait for the full information upon the subjects upon which they are best qualified to treat.

Mr. Robinson was sent to Africa by the Hausa Association to carry on the work begun by his lamented brother in the study of the Hausa language. The country through which he passed is comparatively well known, owing to the work of previous travellers, especially Barth, Monteil, and Staudinger, and important geographical discoveries were impossible. The book, on the whole, is disappointing; for it is not till we reach p. 141 that we are told that "the principal object of the publication of this book is to enlighten public opinion as to the existence of slave-raiding, and of all its attendant evils." Unfortunately for the author, his moral reflections on the wickedness of the slave-trade, and his proposals for its abolition, appear at the same time as Slatin Pasha's declaration that it was the precipitate interference with slavery that led to the trouble in the Soudan.

Mr. Scott Elliot's expedition was undertaken for the sake of botanical collecting in the western part of British East Africa. He organized a small caravan at Mombasa, where, apparently, he was very badly served by the agents of the late British East Africa Company. He marched along the Uganda road to the Victoria Nyanza, and thence westward to Ruwenzori, the great snow-clad range discovered by Stanley. Here he spent several months in botanical investigations; after which he marched southward across Urundi to Lake Tanganyika, and then home by the African Lakes Company's route. Much of the country traversed was new, and he returned to England with a rich harvest of botanical specimens and geographical observations. He suffered the usual trials of the pioneer, but does not worry us with complaints. Mr. Robinson tells us that on one occasion he narrowly escaped the "most awkward position" of spending a night in a camp where there was no water. Mr. Scott Elliot takes waterless camps as so much a matter of course that he barely refers to them. His narrative is enlivened with many touches of delightful humour, and is characterized all through by transparent honesty. Our main regret is that the botanical chapter is so short—only half the length of that on transport, and much less than that on outfit. On this question we regret to have to differ absolutely from the author, for he is opposed to the construction of the Uganda Railway, for reasons which seem inadequate. He advocates the alternative route by Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika, with arguments which, as the construction of the Uganda Railway has been commenced, we need not discuss. It is the frequency with which Mr. Scott Elliot recurs to the question of transport to Uganda that reminds us how all important it is to secure the most direct and shortest route there, as well as one which passes exclusively over British territory. For should the present reconnaissance up the Nile prove that the northern route to the Soudan is still imprac-

ticable, we must trust to our base in Uganda and Unyoro for entrance into the Bahr el Ghazal province, which the treaties translated by Slatin for the Khalifa show to be seriously threatened by the French from the south-west.

#### NEW EDITIONS OF BURNS.

"The Poetry of Robert Burns." Edited by William Ernest Henley and Thomas F. Henderson. Edinburgh: T. C. & E. C. Jack. 1896.

"The Poetical Works of Robert Burns." Edited by John Fawcett. London: Bliss, Sands & Foster. 1896.

"In Memory of Robert Burns": selected Poems and Songs. With an Introduction by Richard Le Gallienne. London: Marcus Ward. 1896.

THE brief preface of the Editors of "The Poetry of Robert Burns" is a marvel of conciseness, packed with such penetrating literary criticism as we have learned to expect from Mr. W. E. Henley, and showing a rarely just conception of the business of an editor of the works of a great poet. The first care of Mr. Henley and his co-Editor has been the preparation of a text as nearly final as they can make it. For this purpose they have made a systematic, and apparently exhaustive, collation of authorities, of books, proof-sheets, tracts, broadsides, periodicals, and MSS. It is evident that much labour has been bestowed on this collation, and the result is a work of real scholarship, with the various readings given as fully as in the best German edition of a Greek classic, based on the fullest knowledge of the existing materials. Of course the requirements of textual scholarship have obliged the Editors to give many interesting but coarse lines in the notes, and no one who reads the text and the notes on the "Epistle to John Rankine" can accuse them of excessive squeamishness; indeed the notes on the slang expressions in this poem remind one of the curious knowledge that characterizes the notes of Burton's "Arabian Nights." In the matter of admitting into the text slang words as a rule excluded by existing conventions, the Editors are sufficiently daring, though in the formation of a final text of the poetry of Burns this is inevitable; for good textual criticism has no room for prudishness. The Editors have used in addition to the various chapbooks "a unique and precious copy of the garland known as 'The Merry Muses of Caledonia,' for which they express their gratitude to Mr. R. T. Hamilton Bruce, of Edinburgh. About this collection the editorial note on "Green grow the Rashes O" gives the following information:—"But the song (or what is left of it) is given in the unique and interesting garland called 'The Merry Muses of Caledonia' (c. 1800), probably—almost certainly—collected by Burns for his private use, together with a second, and still grosser, set attributed, rightly or wrongly, to Burns himself." No doubt convincing evidence for this statement is in the hands of the Editors, but we should like to see it set forth before accepting it even on such excellent authority as theirs. The Editors explain the length of their commentary (of which, long as it is, scarcely a line, we think, can be spared) by the statement that Burns, who borrowed largely from his predecessors, was "first and last what is called a local poet. Indeed, it is fair to say of him that he was the satirist and singer of a parish: so that even in his own time much of his verse, though it survives as verse of genius, was intelligible through all its niceties of meaning to his fellow-parishioners alone." It will certainly not be the fault of the Editors if the meaning is not elucidated in their notes even for the general reader. The deliberate purpose of the Editors stated in their preface, and copiously illustrated in the notes, is "to emphasize the theory that Burns, for all his exhibition of some modern tendencies, was not the founder of a dynasty, but the heir to a flourishing tradition, and the last of an ancient line; that he is demonstrably the outcome of an environment, and not in any but the narrowest sense the unnatural birth of Poesy and Time which he is sometimes held to be. Being a great artist, he derives from a numerous ancestry; and, like all great artists, he is partly an effect of local and peculiar conditions and partly the

product of immediate and remote forbears. Genius apart, in fact, he is *ultimus Scotorum*, the last expression of the old Scots world, and therewith the culmination of a school deep-rooted in the past, which, by producing such men as Dunbar and Scott and Alexander Montgomerie, as Ramsay and Fergusson, and the nameless lyrists of the song-books, made it possible for him to be."

This is perfectly true, and is amply proved in the notes. Of these we must now give some specimens. Here is a specimen of the literary criticism:—"It [the 'Cotter's Saturday Night'] is the most artificial and imitative of Burns's works. Not only is the influence of Gray's 'Elegy' conspicuous, but also there are echoes of Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, and even Milton, while the stanza which was taken, not from Spenser, whom Burns had not then read, but from Beattie and Shenstone, is so purely English as to lie outside the range of Burns's experience and accomplishment." Of this, Burns himself was well aware; at all events at a later date, when he wrote to Thomson, "I have not the command of the language that I have of my native tongue. In fact, I think my ideas are more barren in English than in Scottish."

The bibliographical information is very full and interesting, and sets forth the Editors' aim "to redact the best text possible among the five" which they have enumerated "by means of an exhaustive collation—the first ever systematically done." Of the notes proper a specimen may be given from the remarks on sources of the metre of the "Address to the Deil":—"The six-line stave in *rime couée*, built on two rhymes, of the 'Address to the Deil,' was borrowed from the Troubadours, and freely used in Mediæval English during the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries." "The earliest signed example is the work of the first-known Troubadour, William IX., Count of Poitiers and Duke of Guienne (1071-1127)." It is conjectured that it may have come to England (on the lips of Bernard de Ventadour) in the train of his grandchild, Eleanor of Poitou, wife of that Henry of Anjou whose accession to the English throne (1154) made London the literary as well as political capital of Aquitaine. Having traced the history of the stave in England, and given numerous examples, the Editors take us to Scotland, where the first Scotsman whose name is attached to it is Sir David Lindsay (1540), and trace the use down to the time of Burns. "Through Fergusson, who did his sprightliest work in it, and John Mayne (1759-1836) . . . it passed into the hands of Burns, who put it to all manner of uses, and informed it with all kinds of sentiments; in ambitious and serious poetry like the 'Vision,' in *Addresses* to a Mountain Daisy, Scotch Drink, and many more; in *Elegies*, and in satires such as 'Holy Willie's Prayer,' and in a whole series of *Epistles*. His thoughts and fancies fell naturally into the pace which it imposes: as Dryden's into the heroic couplet, as Spenser's into the stanza of the 'Faerie Queen.' Indeed, he cannot keep it out of his head, and his Alexandrines often march to the tune of it." Of this admirable criticism we have only given a few lines; but, as a whole, it excellently illustrates the theory of the Editors that the poetry of Burns is the outcome of the past, and not the unnatural birth of poesy and time he is sometimes held to be. Again, the Editors deal very successfully with the notion that Burns was a sort of gifted improviser in their notes on "Tam o' Shanter." "It is probable that Burns originally sent the stories told above for insertion in this work, and that the narrative in rhyme was an afterthought. Lockhart, on Cromek's authority, accepts a statement said to have been made by Mrs. Burns, that the piece was the work of a single day, and on this very slender evidence divers critics have indulged in a vast amount of admiration. Burns's general dictum must, however, be borne in mind—'All my poetry is the effect of easy composition, but of laborious correction'—together with his special verdict on 'Tam o' Shanter' (letter to Mrs. Dunlop, April 1791) that it showed 'a finishing polish,' which he despaired of 'ever excelling.'" The fact is that Burns seems to have worked a good deal as Shelley did, striking off a rough draught of a complete poem at great speed, but altering, correcting, and even

rewriting every line of the poem with sedulous care. It was not the inspired ploughman Burns, but the learning-laden and encyclopædic philosopher Browning, who could sit down and write a poem almost in the exact words in which it afterwards appeared in print. A reversal of the popular view; but not without its reasons, when we remember that Burns was a man of emotional moods, with a craving for perfection; while Browning was rather a powerful intellect which cared much for the substance but comparatively little for the artistic form. Enough has been said of the excellences of this edition of Burns, which seems certain, if the other volumes maintain the high standard of the volume before us, to become the standard edition. But admirable and useful as this work is, we cannot but regret that Mr. Henley should give to editing the poems of others the time and energy which would be better bestowed on adding to the too scanty but rarely original and remarkable collection of poems from his own pen. His mastery of metre, his felicities of language, his unique realization of hospital life, and of the life of London, have won him an enviable reputation among the not very numerous circle of readers who have the literary sense. But it looks at present as if the occupation of a critic was to usurp the attention and effort which might be building up the reputation of a creative artist.

With Mr. Henley's text at the zenith of laborious achievement may be compared the text of Mr. Fawcett's edition which is at the nadir—a piece of perfunctory journeyman's work and nothing more. Not satisfied with the inclusion of almost everything Burns wrote, however worthless, he swells the bulk with pieces of doubtful authenticity, and in some cases almost certainly spurious. What is really wanted in the interest of the poetry of Burns is a selection, such as Mr. Henley might very well make, of the comparatively small quantity of pure gold from the huge heap of dross with which it is at present encumbered. This has been attempted in Mr. Le Gallienne's "In Memory of Robert Burns," if he is responsible for the selection; but the result is lamentable. Much of the best work of Burns is excluded, while such feeble and insincere imitations of English models as "The Cotter's Saturday Night" are included. This course commends itself to Mr. Le Gallienne, who says:—"Much of Burns's poetry would lose nothing essential by being translated into plain English." May we expect, then, an edition of Burns rendered into Liverpoolian English by Mr. Le Gallienne? If Mr. Henley's criticisms on Burns are examples of competent craftsmanship, Mr. Le Gallienne's preface to "In Memory of Robert Burns" is a monument of pretentious and wildly erroneous generalizations, interspersed with truisms which, if fewer, would be laughable, but being numerous are merely tedious. "If wine taken not wisely undoubtedly brutalizes, taken in wisdom it as certainly humanizes; and it is this admirable property of wine—or, more accurately, Scotch whisky—that Burns celebrates, &c." But does Mr. Le Gallienne really think that it was the wise use of Scotch whisky and not the unwise that Burns practised in his life and celebrates in his verse? Mr. Le Gallienne, indeed, in spite of his first statement as to the wise use of whisky, goes on to argue that excess is necessary to a poet—by which he apparently means excess in wine and excess in sexual indulgence. On the latter point he comes out strongly, inspired apparently by swallowing the whole of Mr. Grant Allen's Hilltop Philosophy, which has produced a bad fit of moral indigestion, in which he positively gapes for more.

"If we would have a poet love much, we must not be surprised at his loving many; and perhaps it is necessary to break some hearts to heal others." The logic of this is as charming as the morals. "After all, it must have been something great to have been loved by Robert Burns, whatever sorrow attached to it. The marriages between gods and mortals are seldom happy, but they have great moments." We would refer Mr. Le Gallienne to the "Epistle to John Rankine"—to give a single specimen of the loves so magnified—in which, to quote Mr. Henley's note, "the last seven stanzas set forth an account in good venereal slang . . . of Burns's amour with Elizabeth Paton, by whom he had an illegitimate child, and with whom he



did penance by order of the Session." The poem regards the amour as harmless poaching, and expresses its author's intention to stick to that kind of amusement. This, no doubt, seems to Mr. Le Gallienne great and fine, whereas every manly reader will, we think, consider it a record of vulgar animalism without sentiment and without passion, and discreditable alike to the man and to the poet.

#### THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION.

"The Far Eastern Question." By Valentine Chirol. London: Macmillan & Co. 1896.

NO more truthful or trenchant essays have ever been written on China and the Chinese Government than those which appeared in the "Times" under the above heading during the summer and autumn of last year. Fortunately for those interested in the question, these essays have now been published in book form; and it is thus possible for every one to see at a glance through Mr. Chirol's spectacles the real position of affairs in the Middle Kingdom. Mr. Chirol was undoubtedly happy in the time at which he made his observations. Until the war diplomatists and statesmen had been under the delusion that China was a Great Power, that her latent strength was enormous, and that her alliance was a matter of first-rate importance to us as the holders of Asiatic empire. The war dissipated all these illusions, and brought the huge conglomerate mass of incompetency and folly known as the Chinese Empire to the touchstone of truth with a result of which we are all aware.

It might naturally have been hoped that after such a rude shock the Chinese Government would have shown some signs of repentance for past misdeeds, and some desire to expiate bygone follies by introducing necessary reforms into the country. But no symptom of any such designs has as yet appeared. As Mr. Chirol tells us, a Frenchman wittily summed up the position in these words:—"Avant la guerre la Chine dormait sur une oreille; aujourd'hui elle ronfle sur les deux oreilles." Of the capabilities of the Emperor's advisers at Peking Mr. Chirol had abundant opportunities of judging; and this is the picture which he draws as the result of his observations:—"A more hopeless spectacle of fatuous imbecility, made up in equal parts of arrogance and helplessness, than the Central Government of the Chinese Empire presented after the actual presence of war had been removed it is almost impossible to conceive." Any other rulers would at least have been ashamed of such defeats as they had sustained; but not so the Chinese, who contented themselves with regarding the Japanese expedition as being nothing more nor less than a burglarious enterprise, in course of which the sacred soil of China had been invaded in direct defiance of all the rules of propriety.

It requires a violent exercise of mental gymnastics to be able to understand the attitude of the Chinese in this and other matters. So far, however, as foreign politics are concerned, their guiding principle seems to be a hatred of all foreigners, which in its depth and bitterness is only equalled by the abhorrence which an orthodox Mahomedan feels for a Christian Giaour. By force of arms they have been compelled to open a few ports to European trade, from which concession they have benefited largely, but at the same time they are constantly endeavouring to whittle it down to the smallest dimensions. The Chinese recognize the superiority of Westerns in mechanical and warlike skill, as well as in truth and honesty, and they are willing to use them and their wits to strengthen the defences of their own country; but they are quite incapable of taking to heart the deeper lesson of how the foreigner, whom they so despise, has attained to the level of civilization which he has reached, and to which they seem incapable of rising. With the short-sighted folly that distinguishes their policy, they have striven as much as in them lies to make enemies of Europeans rather than friends. They do not attempt to conceal their contempt for them. As Mr. Chirol points out, though the foreign Legations have been established in Peking for more than thirty years, no kind of social intercourse takes place between the members of the Government and the officials of the

Legations. Indeed there has, of late years, been far less common civility shown than was displayed immediately after the war of 1860. Public buildings which then and for some years afterwards were open to foreign visitors are now closed against them. The city walls, which used to be an agreeable change from the crowded and filthy streets of the city, are now forbidden grounds, and on all sides there has of late years been shown a marked tendency to deprive foreigners of every privilege which it has been found safe to withdraw.

In the absence of all kindly feeling, the only lever by which the Chinese official world can be moved is physical force. "From that vantage ground only can China be dominated," says Mr. Chirol, and the sooner this fact is realized by politicians the better. Of the depth of the ignorance of the best-informed mandarins the author had some experience, and he gives a most amusing account of an interview he had with the Tsungli Yamén, in the course of which it became abundantly plain that the Ministers who were professing to guide the foreign policy of the Empire were supremely ignorant of the elements of "history, geography, the achievements of modern science, the lessons of political economy, the conditions which govern the policy of Western States, the influence of public opinion, of the Press, and of Parliamentary institutions." This is bad enough; but the worst feature of the case is that they evince no desire to learn better. They wilfully shut their eyes to the light, and then wonder that, leaning on their confrères, who are equally blind, they occasionally fall into the ditch. For a moment it seemed as though there was likely to be an effort on their part to gain some acquaintance with Western knowledge. A Reform Society was established at Peking, which numbered among its ostensible members some of the leading scholars of the capital. Its main object was to translate European books into the native tongue, and to disseminate them through the Empire. Scarcely, however, had the members begun their work when an Imperial edict appeared abolishing the Society, and this in such pointed terms of disapproval that the leading promoters thought it best to seek safety in flight.

Mr. Chirol's chapters on the missionary question, the industrial and commercial relations of the Empire, and the present position of affairs, are all extremely interesting. He points out with truth and force that our relations with the Far East are primarily and essentially commercial, and that their political importance is merely the result of their commercial importance. It is well that at the present time this should be borne firmly in mind. The trading communities which, it must be confessed, have hitherto failed to push their advantages as they might have done, now that they are called upon to face keen competition at the hands of Germans, Americans, French, Russians, and last, but not least, Japanese, are beginning to move. It is proposed to send a commercial expedition through Western China for the purpose of inquiring how far and how thoroughly English goods have permeated the interior of the country, and what are the commercial products of the inland districts. For the successful prosecution of this most wise project official support is, in a country such as China, absolutely essential; and it is to be hoped that it will be given by the Government with no grudging hand.

Mr. Chirol's book is admirably written throughout, and is full of interest, not only to the specialist, but to all those who take an intelligent interest in foreign politics and in the strange vagaries of national idiosyncrasies.

#### THE ART OF WILDFOWLING.

"First Lessons in the Art of Wildfowling." By Abel Chapman, F.Z.S. London: Horace Cox. 1896.

BY the publication of "Wild Spain," in 1893, Mr. Abel Chapman made for himself, in company with a friend (Mr. Buck), the reputation of having written the most exhaustive and interesting account of sport as it is to be had in Spain to-day. The fact that Mr. Chapman is a naturalist as well as a sportsman greatly added to the value of that book; and the same fact, though in a less degree, enhances the interest and importance of the volume before us. "The Art of

Wildfowling" is the work of a past-master in that fascinating pursuit, who, although in England he has shot chiefly on the Northern and Eastern coasts, has followed wildfowl abroad from one end of Western Europe to another. The illustrations, which are numerous and excellent for their purpose, are from sketches made directly from the life by the author. This gives special value to the grouping and attitudes of the wildfowl; and Mr. Chapman is, moreover, as experienced in ornithology as he is in wildfowling, and perhaps more interested in the science than in the art. His first chapter might have been headed "In Praise of Wildfowling." "It is," he says, "no everyday enthusiasm, but an overmastering passion that neither difficulties nor obstacles can resist nor even age and disability wholly quench." He traces the growth of the passion, and points out the grounds of its charm and the manner in which wildfowling promotes the valuable qualities of patience, pluck, and self-reliance, and he might, we think, have added endurance of hardship. He recommends that the training of the young wildfowler should be gradual, that he should begin with shore-shooting and graduate upwards through the infinite phases of fighting both by day and night, shooting under canvas, &c., before he tries the fowling punt and the big stanchion-gun.

Mr. Chapman is severe on the common misconceptions as to what are wildfowl and where are their haunts, though we really doubt whether the ordinary shore-shooter, or even the inland gunner, fancies that the Bass Rock or Flamborough Head are good places for wildfowl; nor do we think that the fact that the solan geese are not geese at all, but gannets, is unknown to experienced inland sportsmen, even if they have never had any shore-shooting or any punting after wildfowl. He looks with contempt on those who shoot at gulls and guillemots and all kinds of rockfowl. The true wildfowl, he says, are a very different class. They include the six British species of wild-geese; all of those kinds of wild-ducks which feed exclusively on the surface, together with a certain limited section of diving ducks, and some of the larger wading birds. The haunts of all these are the low-lying mudflats and tidal oozes where saltings and featureless foreshores flank some broad estuary. In such places, wherever the long seagrass finds roothold in the rotten ooze there is a feeding-ground for geese by day, for ducks by night, provided the place is remote from the haunts of men.

The frontispiece of the book is a sketch representing one of Mr. Chapman's most successful shots at geese (during the blizzard of March 1886), when he got within about eighty yards of a vast army of Brent geese. The pack was about 2,000 strong. An animated picture of bird-life is at least suggested by the sketch, but the sound can only be imagined—the crash of sound from one thousand throats, and the roar of rising wings from that great host of heavy birds. "Successful wildfowling with the stanchion-gun—whether in regard to its fascinating excitement, and the judgment and skill it demands on the one hand, or its hardships and uncertainties on the other, together with the measure of pluck, patience, and dogged perseverance it calls into play—stands second to no branch of sport to which Britons are addicted." This is Mr. Chapman's deliberate opinion, and he gives the best possible support to his view in his vivid descriptions of the excitement and the difficulties, the disappointments, and the rare and highly prized successes, of the wildfowler's art. Flight-shooting closely resembles grouse-driving, save that the artificial element is wanting; for it is by placing the butts in the natural line of flight of the birds that the flight-gunner obtains his shots. Stormy weather gives the best opportunities. To lie close, and let the wildfowl come well in, is the great secret of success. Close-quarters and clean kills is the receipt, and "forward and high" the marksman's watchword. In wild weather the fowl fight their way to the point of refuge for which they are making, regardless of the reports of the guns scarcely heard and the smoke unseen in the teeth of the December gale. So much for flight-shooting by day. By night the last week of the full moon may be selected as favourable for fighting, and the night must be lightly clouded, for a clear sky with moonlight is hopeless. The ducks come at great speed, and are only in sight

for a few yards, so the difficulty of scoring a kill is great, and certainly when the gunner gets twenty to thirty duck to one gun in half an hour (as Mr. Chapman has done), the work may be described as warm and fascinating. Among many practical warnings Mr. Chapman gives in his chapter on Coast-shooting under canvas are these very useful ones: firstly, to be careful to remember that nothing is more deceptive than distance at sea, and the tendency is to fire at fowl quite out of range; and, secondly, that the speed of wildfowl at sea, no less than the distance, is deceptive to the unpractised eye, for geese and ducks appear to travel slow, yet all have the speed of gamebirds. When ducks are lifting fast you can hardly shoot too high or too far forward. But the cream of wildfowling is generally held to belong to the use of the punt and the punt-gun. Mr. Chapman has had wide and varied experience in punt-gunning and has much practical advice to give as to guns and punts. What are British wildfowl? asks Mr. Chapman. Nominally the list is long; but if the whole bag of game ducks made in winter on the tidal waters of the East coast could be analysed, I imagine that wigeon (*sic*; why not widgeon?) alone would account for, say, 80 per cent., while mallard and teal would go far to complete the balance. Similarly with geese, a still larger proportion are Brents. "During several winters," says Mr. Chapman, "it has been my good fortune to enjoy duck shooting as good, perhaps, as any that Europe can afford, and in those very regions where one *does* have the opportunity of seeing, studying, and shooting all those beautiful varieties of the duck tribe that in England are only common in books, museums, or perfervid imaginations." These happy hunting grounds of Mr. Chapman's were evidently in Southern Spain, where the great marshes of the Guadalquivir supply such wildfowling as for quantity and variety is unknown and unimagined in Great Britain or even in Ireland. Here is a specimen of this sport in Andalusia. "It is still pitch dark. We have ridden nearly a dozen miles through forest and tangled brushwood, and it yet wants an hour till dawn. . . . As the gunning-punt pushes out through samphire and marsh plants, the air resounds with wild notes, and at intervals the roar of thousands of wings, as some great host lifts from the water like a carpet, resembles the distant reverberation of thunder. Presently one perceives a greyer glint on the eastern horizon, and slowly the light mounts in the skies. Now the web-footed world is all amove, and in the growing morn one revels in a unique spectacle of wild-bird life. The whole heaven is animate—dotted, streaked, or serried, here with dusky clouds, there with strings and skeins of hurrying forms." What are the fowls that pass over the sunken tubs in which the gunners wait? Shovelers, pintails, gadwalls, wigeon (*sic*), pochard, ferruginous and tufted ducks, with ruddy sheldrake, and garganey, and marbleducks, together with greylag and bean-geese. Duck-fighting of this sort affords probably as smart shooting as can be found. The forward allowance for passing shots is as great as or even greater than that required for driven grouse. Mr. Chapman advises so carefully that we are surprised at his naming No. 7 as the most effective shot. We should certainly have thought 4 or 5 better. He recommends a 10-bore. His own 10-bore actually weighs an ounce under 8 lb., and we can well believe it is twenty yards better than any 12-bore. In the use of the stanchion-gun from a punt, Mr. Chapman is in favour of the cautious course of firing before the ducks rise, though he admits that, if properly done, the system of firing as they rise is most effective; and of course, in the case of geese, especially if their breasts are towards the gunner, it is a downright blunder to fire before they rise.

Mr. Chapman is eloquent on the excitement of the gunner at the approach of the critical moment when his punt is drawing near a great army of wildfowl. "In no other sport within my knowledge is there more concentration of excitement, more prolonged suspense, than is experienced during these critical moments . . . with the noisy masses of wildfowl already almost within shot, and the trigger-lanyard tightly twisted round one's fingers—no, not even when at length for the first time the fore-sight of the rifle



dwells in thrice refined aim on the shoulder of some grand beast one has sought out in his haunts, hunted or stalked, perhaps for days, it may be weeks on end; or when the rod bends to the first mad rush of a thirty-pounder." Mr. Chapman has a great deal of valuable and entertaining information to impart, but not the least interesting part of his fascinating volume is his vivid account of two seasons in Southern Spain, comprising such sport among the *lucios* or open pools of the *marisma* as must make the English wildfowler's mouth water. For the benefit of sporting readers Mr. Chapman does well to observe that such sport is only obtained on private lands as carefully preserved as a Yorkshire moor or a Highland deer-forest.

#### THE GENESIS OF THE AMERICAN WOMAN.

"Colonial Dames and Good Wives." By Alice Morse Earle. Cambridge (Mass.): The Riverside Press. 1896.

"Margaret Winthrop." By Alice Morse Earle. London: John Murray. 1896.

ALTHOUGH the authoress of these books is evidently a patriotic New Englander, one would not be surprised to hear that some of her countrywomen consider her patriotism rather unfortunate in its mode of expression. We have yet to meet the American woman whose ancestors did not go over in the "Mayflower," and when an impoverished scion of our nobility takes a Transatlantic damsel to his bosom *pour les beaux yeux de sa cassette*, he is invariably informed by the candid New York press that her family had an infinitely more illustrious origin than his own. For this reason Miss Alice Morse Earle's first book is likely to cause some painful searchings of heart and of history. It reminds us that, with the exception of Virginia, whose foremothers were the shipload of "young, handsome, godly carriaged maids," despatched thither under the auspices of Shakspeare's friend and patron, Southampton, the early settlers were, for the most part, either convicts or bond-servants. Louisiana was largely populated by girls from Houses of Correction in Paris; but Maryland seems to have been the only colony to which convict settlers were welcomed. These criminals were presumably not all malefactors. Transportation was the common sentence for treason, and several of the emigrant ships which sailed at the beginning of the eighteenth century contained Jacobites and "Scotts Rebels." It is also alleged that the ladies of King James's Court made handsome profits through the sale of prisoners captured during Monmouth's rebellion to the Philadelphia traders. Thus, it still remains to the modern American who is sensitive on the point of pedigree to discover an ancestor whose only crime was a too ardent devotion to the House of Stuart.

A curious circumstance in early colonial life was the preponderance of widows, by which it would seem that the fair emigrants did not keep their husbands long in the enterprising life of an infant State. The days of their mourning, however, appear to have been short. As in more sophisticated times, the mature fascination of the widow swept youth and innocence out of the field. Many of the makers of America chose widows as consorts. Washington, after burying a "chast and troublesome passion," conceived at the age of fifteen, with the real love of his manhood for the beautiful Mary Phillipse, fell a victim to Madame Custis and her fortune of fifteen thousand pounds, who became his "agreeable partner for life." Thomas Jefferson was another example of Presidential partiality for widows. Despite his youthful devotion to Miss Becca Burwell, it was Madame Skelton who influenced his prime and married him. James Madison and Benjamin Franklin both invited widows to share the Presidential throne.

The women of Young America were not, however, wholly employed in marrying and giving in marriage. The disabilities of sex are, after all, an invention of over-population. Some of the most promising centres of civilization were founded by women; others conducted newspapers; others, again, developed trades, like the indomitable Eliza Pinckney, to whose perseverance the indigo plantations of South Carolina were

entirely due. It was not until the middle of the eighteenth century that an era of false sentiment and insipid inactivity replaced the sane energy of the primitive colonists. The "languishingly sweet" young ladies of Virginia then corresponded with each other under classical names, their letters being long and vapid discourses on "Love and Platonicks," interspersed with shallow criticism of art and literature after the manner of Molière's *femmes savantes*. They rejoiced in the pretentious "Evelina," and in Pamela's sham virtues, but they found Pope's Eloisa "too amorous for a female." A breath of European decadence blown over sea had, as it were, poisoned them till the distant thunder of the Revolution startled them out of their fatuous dalliance. The imminence of war quickened the pulse of life, and woman, ever susceptible of reaction, took to joining patriotic leagues instead of writing journals. One of the most influential leagues, whose members styled themselves the Daughters of Liberty, went clad in homespun rather than wear the silk of foreign manufacture, and even substituted coffee for imported tea. The reflection that the modern variant of the American woman, with her sordid bank-clerk soul and her insane lust for luxury, has the blood of these enthusiasts in her pale veins is calculated to throw a strange doubt upon the accredited tenets of heredity.

But she who is the heroine of Miss Morse Earle's second volume was fashioned of sterner stuff than even the emotional Daughters of Liberty. The country home in English Essex that bred Margaret Tyndal was both aristocratic and austere. So when John Winthrop, who knew the words of Scripture better than the language of love, sought Margaret in marriage, she became his third wife with a willing, if not an ardent, heart. Her husband was not a rich man, and his attention to his legal profession in London necessitated somewhat lengthy absences from his Suffolk home. These separations and the state of things at King Charles's Court vexed the soul of John Winthrop, who was indiscreet enough to allow his indignation to evaporate in a tract which cost him his appointment as attorney to the Courts of Wards and Liveries. His legal career had scarcely, however, terminated when Winthrop was invited by the Directors of the Massachusetts Company to shake the dust of his native land from off his feet, and to embark for the fair New England beyond sea in the capacity of its Governor. In spite of much opposition from his friends, Winthrop accepted the offer, and sailed to prepare a home for his wife and children, who were to follow him, which they did after two years of disappointment and privation. But Winthrop was not one of those who take their hand from the plough. He was a Puritan of the best type, and had the dauntless soul and the frugal mind of his order. In the life of the young State Margaret Winthrop also bore her part with a serene dignity that the cares of housewifery never ruffled. These were not in those days a mere work of supererogation, for the Governor dispensed a constant if simple hospitality to the travellers and deputies who drifted continually into Boston. In truth, he was mindful of the social exigencies attendant on his position. Puritanism was not in the first generation the niggard and uncompromising creed which it became when the heel of the restored Stuarts was set upon its neck, and a wanton Court had provoked a fierce if suppressed antagonism. Governor Winthrop and his wife had not entirely lost touch with the golden age of Elizabethan tolerance, and were far from condemning the joy of innocent diversion. Under his wise and strong rule New England prospered exceedingly, in token whereof stands Winthrop's statue to this day, with a Bible in one hand and the Charter of Massachusetts in the other. He had guarded both with an unconquerable zeal, and Margaret, who was "a very gracious woman," loved him.

#### FICTION.

"The Light of Scarthey." A Romance. By Egerton Castle. London: Osgood, McIlvaine, & Co. 1896.

BETWEEN the romance and the novel what difference, if it be not a difference of atmosphere? A high or heroic theme, and a sustained exaltation of

treatment, may be proper to the romance; but it is the transmuting atmosphere that is essential. Despite the common example, the romance may be as "contemporary" as the novel. One of the most famous, the one romance, in fact, that was ever critically considered as a rival of Scott's, when the first of the "Scotch novels," as they were invariably termed, were astonishing the world, was deliberately and with perfect accuracy entitled by its author "Things as They Are." No works of fiction could present a stronger contrast than Godwin's masterpiece, and, let us say, "Guy Mannering" or "Rob Roy." Yet they are essentially akin as to the atmospheric medium, the colour and qualities of which are not such as belong to the light of common day. To take the reader out of himself, to waft him by a kind of magian art from "the world of all of us" to its transfigured semblance, is a chief prerogative of the romancer. Mr. Egerton Castle has exercised this prescriptive right in "The Light of Scarthey" with such success as could attend only a capable artist and a born romancer. He has previously shown, in less elaborate work, that he is a skilled hand in the telling of a story. In this romance, though the method of narration is none of the simplest, the promise of his earlier ventures is amply confirmed. There is something of elemental freshness and vigour in its presentation of a romantic, yet persuasive, world—a stirring world of high emprise, and fateful love, and the ironic course of destiny. The brave men, the fair women, the sly scheming villain, the gallant adventurer—these are no creatures of a conventional world, but strongly individualized human beings.

Both the time and the scene are extremely picturesque—it is the year of Napoleon's escape from Elba—and the circumstances in which the hero, Sir Adrian Landale, is presented must more than propitiate every romantic spirit. He has retired to the rocky islet of Scarthey, and left the care and dignity of his ancestral estate hard by to his younger brother. Still young, he deems it is all over with his life. He has loved as a true man and a chivalrous must love, and has his reward in suffering. Alone with his books, a recluse and a dreamer, he tends the beacon-light of Scarthey, and in his heart the memorial flame of his devotion to Cécile de Savenaye and the Royalist cause in La Vendée. In a kind of retrospective prologue the tragic story of his loss is told. It is a crisp and animated recital, and is the key to the composition, since it determines the tone and colour of the ensuing romance. For, though Adrian thinks he has done with life, he is but just entering upon a sphere of action that is a fiery trial of his manhood. He is suddenly confronted one evening by a beautiful young woman in his sea-girt home, whom he thinks can be none other than the Cécile de Savenaye of his youth, risen from the waters to which she and he had been cast by their Republican enemies. This is a powerful scene, very finely imagined. The explanation is as natural as the illusion; but the explanation is so devised that it leaves unaffected the force and effect of the illusion. The scene is altogether intensely dramatic. It is the daughter of his lost love who has thus vivified his dream, and it is through her that he makes his re-entry to a world that was dead to him. From this point the coil of the plot evolves. We shall not mar the cumulative effect of the development by recounting the moving incidents and imposing situations that mark the successive stages of the story. Intertwined with the love of Adrian for the younger Cécile is the ill-starred passion of his friend Hubert Cochrane, alias Captain John Smith, for her sister Madeleine. Over the fortunes of all four is cast the malevolent shadow of Rupert Landale. The conception of this person is altogether admirable, and Mr. Castle has realized it with such fidelity and consistence as never overrun into excess or insobriety. In Captain Smith, the gold-smuggler and light-hearted adventurer, as gallant a gentleman as you may find in romance, Mr. Castle has risked the danger of a second hero, and truly a hero, as many would think, of a finer breed than Adrian Landale. We more easily acquiesce in his infatuation for the cold and heartless Madeleine than we can believe in the somewhat too sudden awakening of Cécile after her marriage to Adrian. Herein, indeed, Mr. Castle's insight, or prevision, is a

trifle at fault. Still, the revolt of Madeleine, though too revolutionary and wanting in inception, is intelligible enough, and more than intelligible are the love and devotion of Cécile for the doomed Captain Smith that brighten the gloom of the last powerful scene of the romance.

We must note, in conclusion, one exception to Mr. Castle's well-studied representation of the period of which he treats, as seen, for example, in the manners and conversation of Captain Smith, the two sisters and their aunt, the admirable heraldic Miss Donoghue. When Sir Adrian Landale opens a box of new books at Scarthey he comes upon Byron's just-published poem, "The Corsair," and shows his disdain. Now, no gentleman of culture would have acted thus, and the book was precisely calculated to interest a recluse and misanthropic gentleman of the year of grace 1814. Nor can we think it less improbable that he should then take up "The Recluse"—or, to be exact, "The Excursion"—and fondly murmur as he contemplated that prosy effusion, "Dear Willie Wordsworth." That he had been at College with the poet, and knew him well, does not lessen the improbability. This is the one incredible circumstance in Mr. Castle's fascinating book, and, oddly enough, it is not romantic.

"The White Feather, and other Stories." By Oswald Crawford. London: Chapman & Hall. 1896.

The latest volume of Chapman's Story Series consists of three tales of somewhat unequal excellence. "Sonia" is a really remarkable study of one of those strange survivals of the savage instincts of our ancestors which atavism sometimes lets loose upon the civilized modern world. In going to Russia for his strange heroine Mr. Crawford approaches a mine of virgin ore, full of immense possibilities, which promises for a long time to come to fascinate and attract the Western reader. The Russian character has certainly proved to be the great discovery in subject-matter of the novelists of our time, and to its strange complexity, as well as to their own art, is due the great and growing popularity of Turgenev, Tolstoi, and Dostoevsky. Mr. Crawford appreciates this strangeness and complexity of the Russian character, but approaches it from the scientific standpoint, and the quietness and self-restraint of his treatment enhance for thoughtful readers the effect of his gruesome anatomical examination of this terrible human document, brought from the darkness and distance of an ancestry beyond the Ural mountains into ordinary civilized society. The charm of the Riviera seems a fit setting for the lovely Russian as the story opens, and the terrible revelation of her inmost character that follows shows all the darker from the contrast. At the same time we think that the study might have been far more interesting had it not been closed abruptly, just as the reader's interest was strongly awakened, by a *dénouement* which is too sensational, and which, moreover, dispenses with the difficulties, as it cuts short the interest of a striking situation. "The White Feather" is a longer and more ambitious work, but, we are inclined to think, more suitable for the stage than the novel. The atmosphere and social life of the eighteenth century are very well rendered, and the story shows skill of construction and, in common with the other stories, easy strength both in narrative and dialogue; but Colonel Darcy's delicacy of feeling seems to us rather that of the close of the nineteenth century than of his own time. "Hoffmann's Folly" is a somewhat slender love-story, and, in spite of the scientific wonders of our time, strikes one as more than improbable.

"The Sport of Stars." By Algernon Gissing. London: Hurst & Blackett. 1896.

"A Self-denying Ordinance." By M. Hamilton. London: William Heinemann. 1896.

"Frederick." By L. B. Walford. London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 1895.

When the reviewer had read the first few chapters of "The Sport of Stars," he hugged himself as one who finds a pearl in a dust-heap. By the time he had reached the second volume his face had fallen, and when he closed the whole he beat his breast. For the book is a failure, and it was touch-and-go with it: it



might have been a conspicuous success. To start with, the style reminded one of "Mark Rutherford" by its dignity, and of Gissing the Greater by its telling and pitiless detail. As the story progresses the style falls off, the outlines grow confused, and the author sacrifices his conception of his hero to the requirements of the plot. The picture of the boy's humble bringing up with the mildly revolutionary cobbler and his daughter is all that it could be for sincerity and force; the early lovemaking between Carr and the cobbler's daughter is notably well and naturally drawn. But when a mysterious and beautiful heiress steps in among the homely characters, and the hero has to rise socially and to be left money in order to be on her level for the purposes of fiction, the whole thing is at once conventionalized and our interest wanes. The book would be a wonderfully clever study were the gorgeous young lady left out, the hero's brain and natural superiority the only barriers between him and his low-born sweetheart. As we have said, we find it disappointing: but chiefly because our hopes were raised too high by the fair promise of the early chapters.

"A Self-denying Ordinance" is a very pretty and natural book with a quite exceptionally "nice" and natural girl for a heroine. The pitiful apology for a lover to whom she is faithful all her life is a capitally thought-out character. Nothing could be better than the last scene, where it is impossible to show him that their marriage, after glaring infidelity on his part and sorrowful forgiveness on hers, is not the festive occasion it might have been when she thought him a Galahad and a hero. The story abounds with fun, and is the pleasantest possible reading.

The moral of Mrs. Walford's "Frederick" would appear to be that some men may be fools, but that a kindly and noble-hearted fool is better than an unkind and white-livered man of talent. This is only too true: "Who's a-denigin' of it?" so to speak. If the guileless Frederick had not been artfully contrasted with an utterly detestable specimen of a third-class Cockney, his simplicity might not have seemed so adorable as to lead the very charming heroine to marry him, and Mrs. Walford to sing his praise.

#### NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"A Darn on a Blue-stocking." By C. G. Chatterton. London: Bellairs & Co. 1896.

"Body or Soul." By Eleanor Lightfoot. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1895.

"Lakewood." By Mary Harriott Norris. New York and London: Frederick A. Stokes. 1895.

"Comrades." By Annabel Gray. London: Henry J. Drane, Chant, & Co. 1895.

WE have seldom read anything emptier than "A Darn on a Blue-stocking." The book is so empty, indeed, that a good deal of reflection is needed in order to realize that the subject is irritating. The story is supposed to deal with the well-born heroine who wants to do something, and so takes up painting, and falls in love with the broad-shouldered journalist, whose proofs and sympathetic conversation are such a powerful attraction to heroines. To give an outline of the story, however—even to mention its subject—would be to present an altogether misleading impression of a book which leaves no impression. We do not think a man would set out to write a novel with quite so little to say.

The author of "Body or Soul" has a fair amount to say, though none of it is of much significance. She proceeds entirely by means of half-epigrammatic short sentences. All her characters talk so. She talks so herself. It is not unamusing. But it palls. Only a woman could do it. Miss Lightfoot is a woman. She does it.

"Lakewood" is a readable story of life in a fashionable American watering-place. It is difficult to judge just how much less interesting the story would be to English readers if it dealt with England. However, there is one character at least which goes near to being something good—the young girl Millicent. She is slightly but happily drawn.

Fiction has a queer power. If you once open a novel you want to go on with it. The reading may give you no appreciable pleasure, you may even scorn yourself for your idleness; but, however clumsily the author sticks up his puppet, you want to know what will happen. But there is one thing which is a great stumbling-block—the plots and counter-plots of Secret Societies. The author of "Comrades" goes in for these things, and they mean many pages uncut. The novel is of the lurid kind, but it is not so amusing as might be expected from this

sentence of the sub-heroine's:—"I often wonder at the surpassing genius that had birth in Mitylene," she went on reflectively. "A mere sea-girt rock, yet producing Pittacus, Alceus, and Sappho—the greatest lyric poet that ever lived." But all these four authors talk of everything; they sling Schumann and Browning, and Ireland and Bond Street, right and left.

"The King's Peace." By F. A. Inderwick, Q.C. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. 1895.

Mr. Inderwick has written a comprehensive and attractive little history of the English Law Courts for the "Social England Series." The book should be a help to the not too advanced students of general English history, as well as to those who are particularly interested in law.

"A Bid for Fortune." By Guy Boothby. London: Ward, Lock, & Bowden. 1895.

What an exceedingly wearisome affair a story of adventure is when it is written without *verve* or literary distinction of any kind! It is far less amusing than a bad society story. We can forgive a romancer for an insufficient or ill-connected plot; we do not even quarrel with downright *non sequiturs*, if only the scenes thrill. But Mr. Guy Boothby's notion of making a scene vivid is to say that he would never forget it if he lived to be a hundred, a statement which advances affairs about as much as his frequent request to his readers to permit him to draw a veil over the rest of a love scene. The second most frequent phrase is "I poured him out a stiff nobbler." We know that whenever the author of an adventure story approaches the unravelling of a mystery, this detailing of every step taken is one of the many means which he employs to ensure the complete boredom of his readers, so probably it was only the word that annoyed us. At any rate the illustrator was struck with its importance, because he has given it the dignity of a picture. Indeed, Mr. Stanley Wood's drawings are the best commentary on the writing; in his search for dramatic sentences to illustrate, he has had to put up with such sensational points as "I looked at it again," "scrutinized both carefully," "looked closely at it," "he brought me a photograph of the craft."

"The Homes and Haunts of Thomas Carlyle." London: "Westminster Gazette." 1896.

This is a delightful little book, for which all admirers of Carlyle will be grateful, and without which no Carlyle collection or library will be complete. It consists mainly of enlarged reprints of articles contributed by Mr. Henry C. Shelley to the "Westminster Gazette," but it also includes Mr. Leonard Courtney's address at the first meeting of the Committee for the purchase of Carlyle's house at Chelsea. The letterpress and the engravings follow the sage step by step through his pilgrimage on earth from Ecclefechan to Mainhill, from Mainhill to Hoddam Hill; thence to Scotsbrig, on to Edinburgh, to Craigenputtock, and to Cheyne Row. Nor is this all. Portraits of Carlyle at different times in his life, of Mrs. Carlyle, and of other members of the Carlyle family, and engravings of all the chief relics, are also given and described. The engravings are admirable, and type, paper, and binding are worthy of the engravings.

#### REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

For one thing, at any rate, we may be grateful to the Reviews of this month—amateur foreign politics are not so rampant as we might have expected. This comparative peace is partly, no doubt, owing to sheer fatigue, and partly also to the fact that the latest question of burning interest has been so unexpectedly and suddenly revealed that, with the best will in the world, the majority of contributors have been hurried into making the most of the facts they happen to know about Egypt, leaving expressions of opinion perhaps till May. The "Nineteenth Century" is an exception in giving way to opinions; and under the circumstances it has taken the most comforting course possible, by capping one set of opinions by another set diametrically opposite. Of the various presentable reasons, moral and practical, for England's continued occupation of Egypt, one, according to Mr. Traill, is sufficient by itself—the Soudanese difficulty. England tried to get rid of it a dozen years ago by turning her back on it, but it still exists. Our conquest of the Soudan will not indefinitely prolong our occupation of Egypt; indeed, if we wanted a perpetual excuse for remaining there, we could not do better than "resign the whole of the vast regions on its borders to everlasting anarchy and misrule." On this point Sir Wemyss Reid is of just the other opinion; it is "generally admitted" that the expedition must increase the difficulty of ultimate evacuation. It would undoubtedly be the best thing for the Egyptians if we remained permanently as masters, but for England the occupation is a burden which lames and galls and tyrannizes over her at every step. One other contribution, a strong plea against the possibility of a return of temporal power to the Pope, by Mr. Alden, and the "Nineteenth Century" has done with politics, unless we include Professor Mahaffy's general talk about England and the jealousy of other Powers. We cannot quite see the justification of this homily; at any rate, it would need great dignity and eloquence

to carry off such observations. Law is a mystery in which the unexpected view stands a good chance of proving correct; certainly Sir Herbert Stephen is very convincing when he argues that to take away the sanctity from the prisoner in criminal prosecutions would mean the conviction of many innocent persons. Mr. S. F. Van Oss has some hard things to say about Consols and the Post Office Savings Bank. Mr. Herbert Paul has a most amusing and enjoyable essay on the subject of classical quotation and the classics generally. To Mr. Birrell belongs the honour of stepping into the one particular breach on which our eyes have for some time past been fixed, longing for the light of a bold figure. He calls his article "What, then, did happen at the Reformation?"

The "Fortnightly" has one really splendid contribution, the first part of Olive Schreiner's "Stray Thoughts on South Africa" dealing with the Boer. Olive Schreiner is different from every one else, though there have been writers who thought they were imitating her when they were only entangling themselves in the more detachable threads which they plucked from the "African Farm," and after the reading of much other contemporary literature, however admirable, it is a joy to be allowed to return to her full sentiment, the sentiment that does not hesitate on the threshold, and ask timidly whether after all it had better not appear. And her imagination possesses a power to which the reader is well content to submit, without an attempt to cavil, even if he were so minded. It is unfair, of course, but such a piece of work as this of Olive Schreiner inevitably crowds all the other articles of this month's Reviews into the background. Sudermann's novels are hardly treated adequately or sympathetically enough by Miss Janet Hogarth, considering how famous a person he is. Ouida contributes a stirring account of the "honourable national movement" in Italy, which has been so little noticed in England, always on the side of the Crispi Ministry, that "nightmare of tyranny, corruption, and megalomania."

The "Contemporary" is peculiarly dull this month, even for the "Contemporary," with the exception of Dr. Dillon, who seldom fails to be readable even on foreign politics, and the article on French Canadian speech by Mr. Kennedy. The editor of the Armenian revolutionary organ has important things to say on the subject of Armenia; but his article, like so many articles about Armenia, is scrappy. He will probably find that, since England has shaken herself free somehow from the necessity of protecting Armenia, even the more incredulous portion of the English public will show greater sympathy with the oppressed.

In the "National Review," Mr. Leslie Stephen talks of John Byrom, the author. Many of Mr. Stephen's readers will be astonished to hear of the comparison between Handel and Buononcini. Professor Sully has some amusing children's speeches to report ("Many are cold but few are frozen"), but the necessarily scientific treatment makes rather a heavy appearance here and there. Apart from these two articles, the "National Review" is not interesting, though a review of such a book as Slatin Pasha's is bound to have some excitement in it.

We have seldom enjoyed Mr. Kenneth Grahame so much as in the "Mutabile Semper," which he contributes to the "New Review." His scenes are as characteristic and irresistible as ever, and they have an extra piquancy this time because they are a small image of what seldom strikes us as humorous in the larger or grown-up reflection. The "New Review" is strong in stories, for Mr. Wells has a strange tale about the Fourth Dimension, and the Fijian journey of the souls after death is fiction of a peculiarly fascinating kind. Mr. Basil Thomson is even more amazing here than he was with his preposterous worms last month. One point in the journey is especially remarkable—namely, the jumping-off places ("Thombo thombo" is a fine name for them too). Every island in Fiji has a jumping-off place, from which the soul leaps westward—that is, towards the place from which his ancestors arrived in their wandering. Mr. Charles Leonard, the chairman of the Transvaal National Union, puts a strong case for the Uitlanders.

NOTICE.—The price of back numbers of the SATURDAY REVIEW, except those of the current Volume, is ONE SHILLING each.

The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. He must also entirely decline to enter into correspondence with writers of MSS. sent in and not acknowledged.

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For each old Bond of \$1,000 will be given:—

\$1,350 Four per Cent. New Prior Lien Hundred Year Gold Bonds, carrying interest, payable quarterly, from 1st July, 1896, and  
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The old Northern Pacific First Mortgage Bonds possess mortgage rights over the main line as regards 2,152 miles, and together with the Pend d'Oreille and Missouri River Divisional Mortgages, which precede them in rank, and the St. Paul and Northern Pacific Bonds, which are to be included in the New Prior Lien Mortgage, require for their yearly service a sum of about \$4,000,000.

The New Prior Lien Bonds, on the other hand, when the plan is entirely carried through, will be a first charge on the whole of the Northern Pacific system amounting to 4,706 miles, and will require for their service a sum of \$4,370,000, being an increase of only \$373,000. It is proposed under the plan to pay off in cash at par the aforesaid Pend d'Oreille and Missouri River Divisional Bonds, and to retain in reserve an amount of \$8,423,000 Prior Lien Bonds against a like nominal amount of St. Paul and Northern Pacific Bonds now in circulation, and which cannot be repaid before maturity.

Under the plan \$105,000,000 (including the above \$8,423,000) of the New Four per Cent. Prior Lien Bonds are to be issued. This amount may be increased by a maximum addition of \$25,000,000 in the course of about sixteen years, but any such increase is only to be authorized for new mileage or for important betterments of the property covered by the mortgage.

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STEEL & JONES, 23 Craven Street, Strand, London, W.C.

## THE CLAIMS OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

Present controversy on the claims of Voluntary schools has had, at least, two indisputably good results. The public has clearly seen the extent and value of the Church's past services to elementary education: and the Church has learnt to measure her future task, and to take heart for it.

We write on behalf of a district which has claims upon the nation, second to none, and in which the educational work of the Church is beset with such special difficulties that men's hearts may easily fail them in its contemplation.

The Diocese of Rochester contains, besides Chatham, Gravesend, &c., the whole area of South London—many miles of squalid tenements, closely packed with poor and struggling workers, far removed from the few districts in the Diocese which are able to give them help.

What the importance of the school is as a social, civic, and religious influence in such a region needs no telling; and whatever duty the Church has in regard to the schools must be here, at once, most urgent and most difficult.

The record of the past three years is that, under the stimulus of the well-known Circular of the Department, £125,000 has been given and spent by Churchmen in the diocese upon fabrics alone; and what were, in some cases, dingy, ill-ventilated buildings, have been transformed into bright and wholesome schools.

The task thus laid upon the Church was heavy, because she had been at work educating the poor long before any State aid was given—in some cases even in the last century—so the buildings were often antiquated, and that especially in parishes such as those on the river bank, which, because they were the oldest centres of population, had become the poorest.

This heavy work would have been impossible if the Diocesan Board of Education had not been able (besides much indirect aid and encouragement) to make grants which have amounted to £3,583.

Now, as to the future.

We need £1,000 to complete the work of defence and repair, by paying grants, which we have conditionally promised, and relieving managers who have pledged their private resources to architects and builders.

But we would fain also recover lost ground. In the panic after 1870 the Diocese lost about fifty schools (in the last thirteen years she has only lost three). We are inquiring into the condition and present use of these buildings. We hope to recover some of them. It would immensely assist us to do so if a few Churchmen would promise us a definite sum, upon which we could make a proportionate claim for every reopened school.

And then there is new ground. What that means, an hour or so spent in Battersea, Greenwich, Plumstead, and many other districts would quickly and vividly show, by the token of a vast acreage of newly sprung and ever-extending streets. It is not right that, in such neighbourhoods, all the parents should be forced to send their children to the Board schools for lack of Church schools, and it has been proved that many of them prefer Church schools, even where the premises are homely, and they only have tens, where the Board schools have hundreds, of children.

Since 1870, seventy-two new parishes have been formed in the Diocese, but only sixteen have been supplied with Church schools. This is not surprising, seeing that the Church and endowment have had to be provided. Some of the new parishes are now anxious to have schools, and in several cases sites are awaiting us if they can be promptly occupied. But Church schools can only be built in such districts by a large measure of central help and encouragement, and we should be thankful, indeed, if our Diocesan Board had a sum of £5,000, which it could turn to excellent account, by making loans on new school buildings. We ought to have as much more to make grants, given on condition that treble the amount is raised from other sources.

There is no doubt that we ought to ask to be entrusted with £11,000 for the work of the next five years.

Considering the scale and the importance of the work, is it too large a demand, or larger than the attitude which the Church has taken towards the Government and Parliament in the matter of her schools, endowments, or rather bids, us to make?

Are there not those who have made fortunes by the labours of South Londoners, or by the sale of their land to the speculative builder, who will recognize the debt which they owe, and make the Diocesan Board their almoner?

Contributions to this work will be gladly received by the Bishop of Rochester; by the Secretary of the Board, the Rev. A. W. Maplesden, The Church Institute, Upper Tooting; or by the Westminster Branch of the London and County Bank.

EDWARD ROFFEN.  
HUVSHE SOUTHWARK.  
CHARLES BURNEY.  
J. ERSKINE CLARKE.  
C. E. BROOKE.

Bishop's House, Kennington:  
16 March, 1896.

## London Diocesan Board of Education.

### AN APPEAL ON BEHALF

OF THE

### CHURCH SCHOOLS OF LONDON.

WE, the undersigned members and supporters of the London Diocesan Board of Education, appeal most earnestly to Churchmen, and to all who value the preservation of Christian Education in our Public Elementary Schools, for funds to enable the Diocesan Board to maintain in efficiency the work in which it has been engaged for more than half a century, and to place that work upon a more permanent financial footing.

We have every reason to expect that, during the coming year, Voluntary schools will receive from the Legislature, in some form or another, the assistance they both need and deserve. We are therefore anxious that the Schools dependent upon the Board for support may be in a position to take the utmost advantage of that relief.

There are many schools in the poorer parts of the Diocese which have long been maintained by the most praiseworthy exertions of Churchmen, in the face of the greatest difficulties and of severe pressure. The Diocesan Board has, from time to time, been compelled to undertake the financial management of twenty-two such schools, with fifty-six departments, and more than 13,000 children on the books, in order to give relief to the local managers, and so prevent their abandonment. The majority of these, and, indeed, of all our Church Schools, are among the most popular and efficient within the London School Board area; and to lose any of them would be little short of disastrous to the cause of religious education.

It has been carefully estimated that, to meet the present need, a sum of £6,000 is absolutely required. We therefore earnestly commend the London Diocesan Board and its work to the sympathy and liberal support of the Church-people of London; and we would impress upon them that, if liberal assistance is promptly forthcoming, the relief so given will be permanent in its effect.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

WESTMINSTER.

WINCHILSEA.

ALDENHAM.

EGERTON OF TATTON.

GRIMTHORPE.

G. G. BRADLEY, Dean of Westminster.

T. DYKE ACLAND.

FRANCIS S. POWELL, M.P.

EDWARD CARR GLYN, Vicar of Kensington and Rural Dean.

JOHN G. TALEOT, M.P.

W. H. BARLOW, D.D., Vicar of Islington and Rural Dean.

E. A. EARDLEY-WILMOT, Prebendary of Wells and Vicar of St. Jude's, South Kensington.

H. W. P. RICHARDS, Prebendary of St. Paul's and Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

DAVID ANDERSON, Rector of St. George's, Hanover Square.

RICHARD BENYON, J.P. for Berks.

WILLIAM BOUSFIELD, 20 Hyde Park Gate, W.

RICHARD FOSTER, 48 Moorgate Street, E.C.

F. B. PALMER, Glaisdale, Streatham, S.W.

H. W. PRESCOTT, 50 Cornhill, E.C.

J. A. SHAW STEWART, 71 Eaton Place, S.W.

G. A. SPOTTISWOODE, 3 Cadogan Square, S.W.

Annual Subscriptions and Donations to the General and Poor Schools Relief Fund of the London Diocesan Board of Education should be made payable to JOHN HILL, Esq., Financial Secretary to the Board, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W., or may be paid through Lloyds Bank, Limited (Herries, Farquhar Branch), 16 St. James's Street, S.W.



# THE MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING CO. LIMITED.

**CAPITAL - - - - - £85,000.**

**IN 85,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.**

## SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT to December 31, 1895.

### Directorate.

G. ALBU, Chairman (Alternate LEO ALBU).

A. EPLER. A. GOERZ, M.E. (Alternate A BRAKHAN). W. H. ROGERS (Alternate H. A. ROGERS). W. F. LANCE

### London Committee.

HENRY ROGERS.

CHARLES RUBE.

A. H. MARKER.

### Berlin Committee.

KARL SCHRADER.

BERNHARD DERNBURG.

DR. HANS SCHULTZ.

Manager, JOHN PASCOE.

Secretary, H. B. OWEN.

London Secretary, H. MILITZ.

Berlin Secretaries, DEUTSCHE TREUHAND GESELLSCHAFT.

Head Office, AT THE MINE, JOHANNESBURG.

London Office, 120 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN, E.C.

Berlin Office, 9 BEHRENSTRASSE, W.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT, BALANCE-SHEET AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1895,**

SUBMITTED AT THE

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS,**

**On Friday, February 28, 1896.**

GENTLEMEN,—Your Directors have pleasure in submitting to you their Annual Report on the Company's affairs, together with the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended December 31, 1895.

### FINANCIAL.

During the year, under the authority given by you, tenders were called for the 1,843 Reserve Shares, in London, Berlin and Johannesburg simultaneously, the highest tender received being £7 5s. per share, at which price the shares were sold, realising to your Company the sum of £13,361 15s.

The accounts now submitted show a profit on the twelve months' operations of £55,387 7s. 9d., to which has been added the profit on the 1,843 £1 shares sold, viz., £11,518 15s.; these amounts, together with £70,483 2s. 5d. brought forward from preceding year, making a total of £137,389 5s. 2d. dealt with.

Dividends for each half-year have been paid—Nos. 16 and 17, both of 25 per cent., totalling £42,039 5s., besides writing off 10 per cent. of the amount of the dividends—£4,203 18s. 6d.—to Reserve Fund, and the sum of £10,340 3s. for depreciation of Plant, Machinery, Buildings, &c., leaving a balance of £80,805 18s. 8d., which has been carried forward to Profit and Loss Account No. 2, to which special attention is directed. Here the very large sums written off for depreciation of old plant, &c., and the Accounts totally written off are shown, and are explained hereunder:—

OLD 50 STAMP MILL, &c., £10,396 9s. 3d.

PLANT AT NO. 1 SHAFT, £2,301 17s. 2d.

PLANT AT NO. 2 SHAFT, £4,313 10s. 9d.—The small balances remaining after writing off these amounts represent the estimated realisable value of the plant undisposed of, some of the

machinery having already been sold and a portion transferred to the new works. The Mill itself being of an old and light type, only a nominal value can now be placed upon it.

SHAFTS NOS. 1 & 2 (VERTICAL), £5,048 13s.—These old shafts are now practically worthless, but, serving for ventilation purposes, an amount of £50 has been left on each of the accounts.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS, £313 13s.—This amount represents the cost of road-making, fencing, &c., and no good purpose would be served by still showing the account in the shape of an asset.

QUARTZ ACCOUNT, £5,819 3s. 3d.—These figures represent the mining cost of 9,753 tons of ore "at grass," which your Directors consider advisable to write off.

MINE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT.—The position of your mine as regards its development is eminently satisfactory, and the Directors are of opinion that the time has now arrived when development costs need no longer be charged to Capital Account, and they have therefore written off the total balance, amounting to £23,782 11s. 1d. These costs will be, in future, charged under the ordinary expenditure, which will not make any material difference in the working costs, as large bodies of ore being now developed, the work of further opening up the mine will continue in about the same ratio as milling proceeds.

After writing off these sums, totalling no less than £52,011 17s. 5d., there still remains a balance to the credit of Profit and Loss Account of £28,794 18s. 2d. This, taking into consideration, also, that the extensive and modern equipment of your mine stands at a very small figure in the Balance Sheet, cannot but be considered as a most satisfactory position.

Your Directors regret that their anticipation of a greatly increased output to be derived from the large tonnage dealt with

**Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Lim.—cont.**

during the latter half of the year has, so far, not been fulfilled. The grade of the ore milled has fallen to a rather considerable extent. The explanation will be found in the Manager's Report, being to the effect that the South Reef in the 6th Level has widened out, with a corresponding decrease in the value per ton. They have every confidence that during the ensuing year there will be a marked improvement, and, moreover, the Manager states that indications lead him to believe that the 7th Level will produce ore of a higher grade.

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT.**—The principal items of expenditure on this account amount to £60,756 13s. 3d., details of which are attached to this report.

**RESERVE FUND.**—This has been augmented to £15,637 17s. 6d. by the addition of £4,203 18s. 6d. transferred from Profit and Loss Account, being 10 per cent. on the dividends paid.

**DIVIDEND ACCOUNT.**—Two half-yearly dividends, Nos. 16 and 17, have been declared, amounting to £42,039 5s.

**SUMMARY OF DIVIDENDS DECLARED AND PAID SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE COMPANY.**

No. of Dividend	Date	Rate per Cent.	Issued Capital	Amount Paid
1	October, 1888 ...	10	£40,000	£4,000 0 0
2	November, 1888 ...	10	43,000	4,300 0 0
3	July, 1890 ...	5	63,241	3,162 1 0
4	September, 1890 ...	5	63,241	3,162 1 0
5	December, 1890 ...	10	63,241	6,324 2 0
6	March, 1891 ...	12½	63,241	7,905 2 6
7	June, 1891 ...	12½	63,241	7,905 2 6
8	September, 1891 ...	12½	63,241	7,905 2 6
9	December, 1891 ...	12½	63,241	7,905 2 6
10	June, 1892 ...	20	63,541	12,648 4 0
11	December, 1892 ...	25	66,687	16,671 15 0
12	June, 1893 ...	35	71,687	25,090 9 0
13	December, 1893 ...	25	71,687	17,921 15 0
14	June, 1894 ...	25	71,687	17,921 15 0
15	December, 1894 ...	30	83,157	24,947 2 0
16	June, 1895 ...	25	83,157	20,789 5 0
17	December, 1895 ...	25	85,000	21,250 0 0
		1300		£209,808 19 0

**MINE.**

The operations during the year are fully dealt with in the Manager's Report. It will be observed that the Main Reef has been well opened up, the reef for the most part being of a payable nature. The ore mined and hauled during the period under review amounted to 68,400 tons. 5,042 tons were placed on the surface reserve dump, the cost of which has now been written off. The tonnage of ore now opened up is 281,281—22,555 tons in excess of the tonnage opened up at December 31, 1894.

**MILL AND MILLING.**

The old Mill of 50 stamps crushed 22,029 tons of ore—an average of 256 tons per stamp per diem—up to the time that it was shut down. The new heavy type 60 stamp Mill was started on July 1, and has run very well, crushing 41,329 tons, equivalent to 413 tons per stamp per 24 hours. The total tonnage put through the Mills was 63,358.

Arrangements have been made with the Rand Central Ore Reduction Company by which that Company purchases the slimes run off from the tailings, a product hitherto unmarketable, and from which a revenue of £242 17s. during four months has been derived. A further amount will be realised by the sale of the accumulated slimes.

The average amount realised for the bullion won during the twelve months was £3 14s. 379d., as against £3 14s. 795d. for the previous period, there being a very slight falling off in the average fineness.

**CYANIDE WORKS.**

Large additions have been made to the works during the year in order to cope with the product from the new Mill, and in view of the erection of 20 more stamps the works are being still further extended, a feature being the introduction of the mechanical haulage system to be operated by an electric motor.

**WORKING EXPENDITURE.**

A very satisfactory feature is the continued reduction effected in working costs, which have been brought down to 24s. 913d. per ton, as compared with 29s. 0914d. for the year previous, as

shown in the appended table. A still further reduction during 1896 may be looked for:—

	Half-year ended June 30, 1893	Half-year ended Dec. 31, 1893	Year ended Dec. 31, 1894	Year ended Dec. 31, 1895
	Per ton s. d.	Per ton s. d.	Per ton s. d.	Per ton s. d.
Mining Expenses ..	14 4'181	12 5'060	11 5'091	10 4'649
Transport .. ..	7'193	4'822	5'243	3'330
Reduction .. ..	4 4'851	3 8'597	3 5'794	3 0'547
General Charges ..	5 0'803	4 4'750	4 1'053	3 2'480
Maintenance ..	3 2'300	3 1'998	2 7'858	2 7'700
Mine Development Redemption ..	4 2'315	2 11'441	2 11'769	3 0'000
Tailings Treatment	£1 11 9'843	£1 7 0'287	£1 4 9'738	£1 3 6'706
			4 3'176	3 2'425
			£1 9 0'914	£1 4 9'131

**NEW WORKS.**

As predicted in last year's Report, your Directors are now in a position to congratulate shareholders on possessing one of the most compact and economical plants on the Rand, the machinery being all of the most modern type, and the whole plant (with the exception of the Cyanide Works, which have to be distant to get sufficient fall for the gravitation of the pulp) being concentrated near the mouth of the new shaft.

As already reported, your Directors have decided to erect 20 additional stamps, in order to mill a larger tonnage from the South Reef (which is widening out in the lower levels) and also from the Main Reef. The Manager's Report deals with these matters, and with the additions to the existing plant, &c., now being made.

In view of the augmentation of the stamping capacity, the very complete plant, and the present aspect of the mine, shareholders may be assured of a long period of prosperous working.

**NATIVE LABOUR.**

Your Company has again been very fortunate in respect of native labour, the scarcity of which has been very general on the Rand. The average rate of pay is about 58s. 5d. per month. The natives are well-housed, the compound being one of the best on the Rand.

**THE AUDITORS' REPORT**

for the year is appended hereto.

**DIRECTORS.**

At the meeting called for Friday, February 28, 1896, you will be asked to elect two Directors in place of Messrs. W. H. Rogers and A. Epler, who retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

**GENERAL.**

Your Directors have great pleasure in testifying to the excellent work done by the Manager, by which the expenses have been further reduced, and which has led to the mine being opened up far ahead of the requirements of the Mill.

In the early part of the year the Secretaryship became vacant by the resignation of Mr. W. E. Steers, who had held the position for over four years, during which period he rendered excellent service to the Company. Mr. H. B. Owen was appointed in his place.

There has been a further increase in the number of shareholders, the holdings at December 31, 1895, being as under:—

European shareholders	1,052
South African shareholders	182
	1,234

GEORGE ALBU, Chairman.  
W. H. ROGERS,  
A. EPLER,  
W. F. LANCE,  
A. BRAKHAN, } Directors.

Head Office, Johannesburg:  
January 31, 1896.

**AUDITORS' REPORT.**

JOHANNESBURG:

FEBRUARY 18, 1896.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—We have pleasure in testifying that in auditing the Books and Vouchers of your Company for the year ended December 31, 1895, we found them kept in such a



**Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Lim.—cont.**

manner that, at any time, the true position of your Company could readily be ascertained.

The Statement of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (to which this report is attached) are true and correct extracts from the Books, and exhibit an accurate account of the Company's financial position as at the above mentioned date.

We are, Gentlemen,  
Yours obediently,  
DAVID FRASER, } Auditors.  
J. P. O'REILLY, }

**MANAGER'S REPORT.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS OF THE  
MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—For the twelve months ended December 31, 1895, I beg to report as follows:—

**MINE DEVELOPMENT.**

Development operations have been carried on at each Level, from the first to the sixth inclusive. The footage charged to development during the year amounts to 5,264 feet. This does not represent the total amount of work of this description done during the period under review. Owing to the faulty nature of the formation in certain parts of the mine, a large amount of dead work had to be done in excess of the ordinary development work which consists of the driving of all main drives and cross-cuts, and the sinking of the main shaft with all necessary winzes and raises. In order to open up the stopes for the economical extraction of ore, very nearly 1,000 feet of ground had to be cut through with drives, cross cuts, &c. This has all been charged to Mining Expenses.

**FIRST LEVEL.**—Operations have been confined to the opening up of the Main Reef on this Level, where a large quantity is now in readiness for stoping. The value of this reef is 6 dwts. over 6 feet, this portion being the footwall seam. The hanging-wall part of the reef contains but very little gold, and as far as I have tested it, it will not pay to mine. The footwall portion can be worked at a profit, as the cost of mining should be very low, the ore being free milling.

**SECOND LEVEL.**—The Main Reef has also been opened up at this Level. The footwall has been driven on 563 feet, and 81 samples were taken during the progress of the drive, or 1 sample for each 7 feet. The average assay value of these was 5 dwts. 8.6 grs. over a width of 3 feet 3 inches. This drive being made in the reef where it begins to assume its pyritic nature, the above cannot be considered a fair average. I find throughout this mine that the reefs are poorer at the line of transition from their oxidised state.

**THIRD LEVEL.**—Drives on both Leader and South Reef have been completed to the eastern boundary and winzes sunk to the 4th Level. A considerable quantity of ore remains unstopped on both South Reef and Leader between this and the 2nd Level.

But very little has been done on the Main Reef at this point. Three cross-cuts only have been driven through it, one of them being near the western boundary, where the reef is very large and unpayable. A raise has been put through from the face of cross-cut on Main Reef in the centre of the mine. Here the reef is again found to be payable. The average result of the assays taken in course of raising was 12 dwts. 3 grs. per ton over a width of 3 feet 6 inches of reef.

The reef in the face of eastern cross-cut near the dyke is small and composed of two seams, one on the footwall, the other on the hanging wall, each about 7 inches thick, divided by a band of country rock 2 feet thick. One assay only has been made from this point, which showed the value of the reef to be 2 ozs. 19 dwts. 6 grs. per ton. A raise will be put through to the 2nd Level as fast as possible. No stoping can be done at this place until March or April.

**FOURTH LEVEL.**—The South Reef and Main Reef Leader drives have been completed east to the dyke. This dyke comes into the mine at the surface of the eastern boundary, and has a strike of 25 degrees south-west, its width at right angles from the strike being 94 feet. Up to the present no ore has been mined from its eastern face. A drive has been made through it at the 3rd Level. Here the South Reef comes in from its eastern side, the distance on reef between dyke and eastern boundary being 25 feet. Owing to its strike the Main Reef and Leader do not come into our ground at this Level, but make their appearance at the 4th Level east of the dyke. From this point mining operations in the future will be carried on to the east and west of it.

The Leader East Drive has been turned north and continued on the footwall portion of Main Reef, which is of the same character as that described at the 3rd Level. A raise has also been put up through this ground to the 3rd Level, a distance of

149 feet. The average assay value of the reef between these levels is 1 oz. 1 dwt. 11 grs. The reef is 15 inches wide. Stoping can be commenced from this raise in February.

**FIFTH LEVEL.**—Both South Reef and Main Reef Leader have been driven on up to the eastern and western boundaries. The development of this Level on these reefs is completed, with the exception of a raise or two which require to be put through to the 4th Level.

The Main Reef has also been cut through near the eastern boundary and driven on 58 feet. The reef here is similar to that in the eastern part of the mine in the upper Levels, both in size and quality.

**SIXTH LEVEL.**—The opening up of this Level was commenced in June. A cross-cut driven south from the Main Shaft 81 feet cut through the series of reefs now being operated upon in this mine. The Main Reef Leader Drive has been extended west of the shaft 275 feet. The average size of the reef is 17 inches, assay value 18 dwts. 5.3 grs.

The South Reef Drive has been driven west 187 feet and 133 feet east. The reef in the West Drive is apparently large. In driving only part of the reef was taken out—that nearest the footwall. I estimate the width of the reef at between 6 feet and 7 feet, with an assay value of 12 dwts., although the average of the assays taken is 1 oz. 1 dwt. 11 grs.; these were taken from the footwall portion of reef, which is the best. This drive will be resampled as soon as the reef is cut across in several places, but for the present we are unable to do this, as it is advisable to push the drive ahead to the winze for ventilation.

The Main Incline Shaft has been sunk a further distance of 159 feet during the year, its total depth now being 763 feet. Sinking was suspended for 6 months, but resumed in December. It has been found necessary to change the angle of the shaft from 42½ degrees to 35 degrees. This angle can now be carried down to the south boundary of the mine.

Hauling and pumping was abandoned in the two vertical shafts on June 30. The working of the mine has been carried on through the new shaft since that date. The appended report of the Mine Surveyor shows the tonnage developed to be 22,555 in excess of that at the end of the year 1894.

This appears to be but a small increase. The width of the small portions of the reef throughout the mine is estimated with the quantity of waste that would unavoidably get mixed with it in mining and would in consequence be milled. The mine now having sorting arrangements on the surface, 20 per cent. has been deducted from the width, this representing the amount of waste sorted on the surface.

*The Manager, Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining  
Company, Limited.*

DEAR SIR,—I beg to certify to the quantity of Ore developed in your Mine on December 31, 1895.

Main Reef	...	...	175,827
Main Reef Leader	...	...	50,416
South Reef	...	...	55,038
			—281,281 tons.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) R. ROSEWARNE,

Surveyor.

For further information, shareholders are referred to the table attached to this Report, showing details of the development performed.

**MILL.**

During the period from January 1 to June 30 inclusive, the old 50 Head Mill ran steadily. On July 1 the New Mill of 60 head heavy stamps was put in motion and crushing with it has continued from that date. The Mill has been running well and the stoppages which have taken place have been such as are usual and necessary. The supply of water has been good and of sufficient quantity for requirements.

Old Mill		50 Stamps ran January 1—June 30 inclusive	172½ days.
		Ore Milled	22,029 tons.
		Tons per Stamp per 24 hours	256 tons.
New Mill		60 Stamps ran July 1—Dec. 31 inclusive	166½ days.
		Ore Milled	41,329 tons.
		Tons per Stamp per 24 hours	413 tons.
		Yield in Bullion for 12 months	28,082,073 ozs.
		Yield per ton of Ore milled	8 dwts. 20 736 grs.
		Value per ton of Ore milled	£1 12s. 10 397d.
		Bullion realised per oz.	£3 14s. 3 799d.

**CYANIDE WORKS.**

The whole of the tailings produced during the twelve months both from the Old and New Mills, have been treated.

The details of operations are as follows:—

Actual tonnage treated	...	47,914 tons.
Yield in Bullion	...	9,340,782 ozs.
Yield per ton	...	3 dwts. 21 572 grs.
Value per ton	...	11s. 7 403d.
Average actual cost per ton treated	...	4s. 2 811d.

The ore milled during the last six months of the year has been of exceptionally low grade and falls a long way below the

**Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—cont.**

average formerly obtained. Although it was expected to mill a large percentage of Main Reef when the New Mill commenced to run, no such fall in the yield was anticipated. I estimated from assays taken throughout the mine that the yield per ton would not fall below 12 dwts. from Mill and Cyanide treatment inclusive, without milling any ore from the rich chute on the Leader, and that by taking a proportionate part of this the yield would be raised to 14 dwts.

The deterioration in the yield I attribute to the falling off in value of the South Reef at the 5th Level, although the assays taken from drives and winzes at the time of its development led me to anticipate much better results. The cause of the ore becoming low grade is the widening out of the reef from 2 feet thick in the upper levels to 6 feet at the 5th Level. This width of reef is maintained for over two-thirds of the length of the mine. I find that where the reefs widen out the grade of ore invariably diminishes in proportion to the increase in size.

From this level we are extracting two-thirds of the South Reef now being milled. But very little ore from the rich chute on the Leader has been put through the New Mill since it has been in operation, more than the average proportion having been mined and put through the Old Mill. This was done to keep up the uniform returns on the small tonnage then being treated. I fully expected, when the New Mill commenced crushing with a capacity of from 7,000 to 7,500 tons per month, that by taking a third part of Main Reef the yield would not fall below 12 dwts., and that with better working facilities a reduction in the expenses would be sure to follow, and good profits would be made on the above yield.

During the time that crushing operations have been carried on with the new 60 stamps, the proportion of each reef milled has been as follows:—

South Reef ... ..	20,991 tons
Main Reef ... ..	12,873 "
Main Reef Leader ... ..	7,465 "

It will be seen that a little over half the ore crushed was taken from the South Reef, and is the cause of the low yield. The average fire assay value of the Main Reef Stopes for the past six months is 9 dwts. 17 grs. per ton. The bulk of the ore now opened up in the mine is Main Reef, and, so far as it has been tested, it is a payable proposition.

Although the mine at present is not looking as well as might be desired, we are only having the same experience as most of the mines here have had, *i.e.*, working in what is commonly known as a poor zone. But I am confident of an improvement in the near future. The 6th Level drive is being driven as fast as possible, and will reach the rich chute in April. Good results have also been obtained from the Main Reef east of the shaft at the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Levels. The reef at these points is small, but very good, and when sufficiently developed for stopping will help to raise the grade of the ore. A stoep will be ready for work in February.

**CYANIDE PLANT.**

This plant has been enlarged during the year, the additions consisting of two Leaching Vats, of 140 tons capacity each, and four Settling Tanks fitted with Butters' Patent Distributors. The system of preliminary treatment has also been adopted, but up to the present no marked improvement in the extraction has resulted therefrom, probably owing to the low grade of the tailings treated. A saving in cyanide and a shortening of the time required in the Leaching Vats is, however, gained by the adoption of this system.

**NEW BATTERY.**

This is a very substantial piece of work. It was completed in June, and milling operations were commenced in July. Since then it has worked continuously without a hitch in any part of the machinery connected therewith.

**BUILDINGS.**

A cottage has been built for the Resident Mechanical Engineer, and one removed from the site now occupied by the New Battery, which has been refitted up and is occupied by the night foreman. Further additions have been made to the Workmen's Quarters and Native Compound, in order to accommodate the additional number of employés that were required after the New Mill was in operation.

**NEW PLANT.**

The general arrangement of this plant is in every way convenient for the economical working of the mine. All mechanical power required for the working of the mine and reduction of the ore has been centralised. The Battery is distant 80 feet from the Main Shaft, through which hoisting from the whole of the mine is done. The Hauling Engine is by Ruston & Proctor, 14½ in. by 28 in. cylinders.

A Pumping Engine by Harvey & Co. has been erected in the same house; also, one Tangye Engine, used for operating a No. 5 Gate's Crusher in the head gear. The Battery engine-house contains one Willan's Central Valve Compound High-Speed Engine of 200 h.p., used for driving the Mill.

The electric installation is also in this house, and consists of two dynamos for lighting purposes, and one for generating power for Mill supply pump. They are driven by a 90 h.p. engine of the same type as the Battery Engine. These engines have been running remarkably well during the time they have been at work, causing but very little trouble. The Boiler Plant is composed of 5 100 h.p. Boilers by Easton, Anderson, & Goolden. These are situate between the Hauling and Battery Engine Houses and supply steam for the whole of the machinery on the mine, with the exception of the Cyanide Works, which will shortly be operated by electricity, when power will be taken from the same source.

**MACHINERY, WORKS AND BUILDINGS IN COURSE OF ERECTION.**

The erection of 20 additional stamps was put in hand during December, and the stamps will be in running order in March. This increase of the stamping capacity will need a further extension of the Cyanide Works, Men's Quarters, Compound, &c., all surface works being formerly laid out to meet the requirements of the 60 Stamp Mill.

The additions to the Cyanide Plant will consist of 4 Leaching Vats each of 140 tons capacity, 2 Settling Tanks of the same dimensions, 2 Solution Tanks, extra extractor bones, &c. The present method of haulage will be changed for the endless rope system, which will be used for both filling tanks and taking the residues after treatment on to the dump. This haulage will be so arranged as to be operated either by electric motor or steam. The extensions and other work connected with the Cyanide Plant I hope to have completed in February, as well as the additions to Compound, &c.

Another 100 h.p. boiler is under order; also, a Battery Engine, both of the same type as those now in use. The engine will be placed opposite the other, and in case of breakdown can be coupled on to the driving shaft in a few minutes. This will bring the chances of any long stoppage of the battery down to a minimum. These engines can be run alternately, and the engineer will thus have plenty of time for repairs or for detecting any defects which otherwise would perhaps lead to serious results.

**WATER SUPPLY.**

I am pleased to report that the means employed for obtaining water for milling and other purposes have answered exceedingly well, and this season has been a severe test. We have experienced no difficulty as has been the case with many other mines, having plenty of water for all requirements. In our position, without any large storage dams, great care has to be exercised to utilise the daily incoming water from the mine and spruit—in all, approximately, 100,000 gallons—in the dry season, our requirements being about 360,000 gallons. To enable daily requirements to be supplied, the water after leaving the sand separators is run into a pit, where the slimes contained in it are settled. The water is then returned in a clear state to the sump, and is again pumped back to the battery. The only loss occurring is from leakage and evaporation, which does not exceed 20 per cent. I consider this method to be practically an inexpensive one. Although the pits used for the settling of the slimes must be continually cleaned out, their contents are of marketable value, and a source of revenue to the Company.

**MACHINERY.**

The machinery at the old plants, near the two vertical shafts, has been taken out and sold, with the exception of that required by us, *viz.*: the small pumping engine at No. 1 Shaft and Cornish pump. This engine will be erected at the Cyanide Works to operate the haulage and other machinery in the event of anything going wrong with the electric installation. The pump will be again used in the deeper workings of the Main Shaft.

The compressor has been taken up and overhauled and re-erected at the new works.

The workshops have been enlarged and fitted with machinery suitable for all requirements.

All machinery at work has been maintained in good order.

**GENERAL.**

I consider that after all improvements and extensions to existing plant are completed, the equipment of this mine will be as good as any on the fields, everything being convenient and favourable for economical working. Since the new plant has been in operation a large reduction in working-expenses has already been effected, and a further reduction can be expected when the additional 20 stamps are running. I estimate that the total cost of production should not exceed 20s. per ton after everything is in full swing. I would advise that the sinking of the Main Shaft be continued, as indications on both South Reef and Main Reef Leader, as far as they have been developed at the 6th Level, are favourable to a better quality of ore being encountered at a lower depth. The shaft will be deep enough for the opening of the 7th Level by the middle of February. I am of the opinion that this Level will be more productive than the two preceding ones.



**Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Lim.—cont.**

## NATIVE LABOUR.

I am again pleased to report that no difficulty has been experienced in securing a plentiful supply of native labour for all departments, although our requirements have been double that of the preceding year, owing to our increased stamping capa-

city. These natives have come to us without any inducement or assistance from anyone.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. PASCOE,

**Manager.**

**MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1895.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
TO CAPITAL ACCOUNT—		By MINE PROPERTY .. .. . £62,893 13 9	
85,000 Shares at £1 .. .. .	£85,000 0 0	" MYNPACHT FREEHOLD—	
" SUNDRY CREDITORS—		Comprising Freehold of Meyer	
On Account Machinery, Stores,		& Charlton and New Spes Bona	
Wages, &c. .. .. .	£8,542 14 2	Companies' Mynpachts .. .. . 4,283 19 6	
" UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS—		" INVESTMENT ACCOUNT—	
No. 10 .. .. .	3 0 0	66 Shares Rand Mutual Assurance Co., Ltd., at £5 .. .. . £330 0 0	
No. 11 .. .. .	2 5 0	2 £100 Building Debentures,	
No. 12 .. .. .	2 9 0	Chamber of Mines .. .. . 200 0 0	
No. 13 .. .. .	1 15 0	" PERMANENT WORKS—	
No. 14 .. .. .	31 10 0	Dams and Reservoirs .. .. . 1,061 1 3	
No. 15 .. .. .	3 6 0	Less 50 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 530 10 7	
No. 16 .. .. .	148 15 0	" MAIN SHAFTS, Nos. 1 & 2 .. .. . 5,184 13 0	
	193 0 0	Less written off .. .. . 5,084 13 0	
" SUNDRY SHAREHOLDERS—		" MAIN INCLINE SHAFT—	
Dividend No. 17 .. .. .	21,250 0 0	Less 10 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 6,177 9 8	
" RESERVE FUND .. .. . 15,637 17 6		" MACHINERY AND PLANT—	
" PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—		Main Incline Shaft Plant and	
Balance .. .. .	28,794 1 2	Battery, comprising 60-stamp	
		Battery, Head Gear, Engines,	
		Boilers, Electric Plant, Com-	
		pressor Plant, Buildings, &c.—	
		Expended to date .. .. . £49,935 19 1	
		Less 10 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 4,993 12 0	
		Old 50-stamp Mill, &c. .. .. . 12,396 9 3	
		Less written off .. .. . 10,396 9 3	
		No. 1 Shaft Plant Account .. .. . 2,901 17 2	
		Less written off .. .. . 2,301 17 2	
		No. 2 Shaft Plant Account .. .. . 4,363 10 9	
		Less written off .. .. . 4,313 10 9	
		Tramlines and Trucks .. .. . 2,642 7 2	
		Less 20 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 528 9 5	
		General Plant Account .. .. . 673 13 7	
		Less 20 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 134 14 8	
		Workshops and Plant .. .. . 1,433 7 3	
		Less 15 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 215 0 1	
		" TAILINGS TREATMENT WORKS—	
		(Cyanide Process)—	
		Expenditure to date .. .. . 13,678 7 6	
		Less 15 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 2,051 15 2	
		" BUILDINGS—	
		Offices, Quarters, Compound,	
		Stables, &c. .. .. . 8,696 13 1	
		Less 10 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 869 13 4	
		" LIVE STOCK .. .. . 137 17 2	
		Less 25 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 34 9 3	
		" FURNITURE .. .. . 283 15 1	
		Less 20 per cent. for depreciation .. .. . 56 15 1	
		" NATAL BANK, LTD.—	
		Current Account, Johannesburg .. .. . 273 5 6	
		Ditto London .. .. . 172 10 0	
		Dividend Account .. .. . 148 15 0	
		" DE NATIONALE BANK—	
		Dividend Accounts .. .. . 44 5 0	
		" CASH IN HAND .. .. . 1,735 14 1	
		" GOLD CONSIGNMENT ACCOUNT .. .. . 7,766 15 8	
		" STORES AND MATERIALS IN STOCK .. .. . 3,392 13 5	
		" SUNDRY DEBTORS .. .. . 1,309 15 7	
		Less Bad Debts written off .. .. . 281 10 11	
		" 14,272 3 4	
		" 14,272 3 4	

Examined, compared with vouchers, and found correct.

DAVID FRASER, } Auditors.  
J. P. O'REILLY, }

J. P. O'REILLY,

Johannesburg : 18th February, 1896.

H. B. OWEN, Secretary.

GEORGE ALBU, Chairman, } Directors.  
A. BRAKHAN.

A. BRAKHAN.

Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—cont.

## MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1895.

WORKING EXPENSES.		REVENUE.	
<b>COST PER TON.</b>		<b>By GOLD ACCOUNT—</b>	
10s. 4'649d. To MINING—		MILL GOLD—	
Wages, European .. ..	£6,394 16 3	23,696'273 ozs. realised.. ..	£87,999 18 11
" Native (including food) .. ..	17,898 15 4	4,385'795 ozs. Bank advance at 73s. 6d. ..	16,117 15 11
Explosives .. ..	4,774 0 2		£104,117 14 10
Tools, Stores, &c. .. ..	1,834 14 8	28,082'073 ozs. Bullion from 63,358 Tons	
Mining Timber .. ..	638 2 4	Ore Milled,	
Smithy Account .. ..	1,416 19 3	Value per ton, £1 12s. 10'397d.	
Contractors .. ..	1,008 1 0	CYANIDE GOLD—	
Fuel .. ..	1,086 18 2	7,545'273 ozs. realised.. ..	22,444 2 5
68,400 tons of ore mined .. ..	35,952 7 2	1,795'309 ozs. Bank advance at 60s. ..	5,386 10 6
Less difference between ore added to			27,830 12 11
and taken from Surface Reserves		9,340'782 ozs. from 47,914 Tons Tailings	
—5,042 tons .. ..	3,045 18 1	Treated. .. ..	131,948 7 9
	£32,906 9 1		
0s. 3'330d. " TRANSPORT—		37,422'855 ozs. Total Output.	
Wages, European .. ..	307 5 6	" SALE OF TAILINGS—1,213 Tons .. ..	181 19 0
" Native (including food) .. ..	421 2 8	" SALE OF CONCENTRATES—140 tons .. ..	350 12 5
Stables Account .. ..	58 10 0	1,600 lbs. .. ..	248 17 0
Stores, &c. .. ..	8 3 1	" SLAG ACCOUNT—proceeds from 32 cwt. ..	573 6 11
	879 1 3	3 qrs. .. ..	1 15 0
3s. 0'547d. " REDUCTION—		" SALE OF STONE (WASTE ROCK) .. ..	0 3 0
Wages, European .. ..	3,320 18 2	" TRANSFER FEES .. ..	135 0 0
" Native (including food) .. ..	1,272 11 4	" WATER-RIGHT RENT .. ..	120 0 0
Tools, Stores, Chemicals, &c. .. ..	1,048 18 7	" GROUND RENT .. ..	117 0 0
Fuel .. ..	3,116 5 2	" MIJNPACHT RENT .. ..	191 10 0
Ore Breaking and Sorting .. ..	890 9 1	" HOUSE AND STAND RENTS .. ..	25 10 0
	9,648 2 4	" SALE OLD PLANT .. ..	
3s. 2'495d. " CYANIDE WORKS—			£133,827 11 1
Wages, European .. ..	1,717 1 3		
" Native (including food) .. ..	1,535 16 7	By BALANCE—	
Cyanide .. ..	3,461 12 1	From preceding year .. ..	£70,483 2 5
Tools, Stores, Chemicals, &c. .. ..	703 2 7	" PROFIT ON 1,843 RESERVE SHARES	11,518 15 0
Fuel .. ..	646 10 0	" BALANCE DOWN—	
Assay Department (proportion) .. ..	269 16 8	Profit on 12 Months' Working .. ..	55,387 7 9
Stables Account .. ..	128 15 0		
Allowance to cover estimated Royalty			
if McArthur-Forrest Parents are			
upheld .. ..	1,681 6 9		
Actual Working Cost : 4s. 2'311d. per ton.	10,144 0 11		
3s. 2'480d. " GENERAL CHARGES—			
Salaries .. ..	2,385 11 6		
Stationery, Printing, Advertising,			
Postage, Telegrams .. ..	990 6 11		
Interest .. ..	7 18 1		
Licenses .. ..	84 0 0		
Hospital, Medicines, &c. .. ..	293 1 2		
Sundry Expenditure .. ..	3,696 9 4		
Directors', Auditors' and London			
Committee's Fees .. ..	2,189 0 0		
Assay Department (proportion) .. ..	512 3 1		
	10,158 10 1		
3s. 7'700d. " MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT—			
Mine and Surface .. ..	2,582 13 6		
Mill .. ..	2,203 11 7		
Cyanide Works .. ..	414 0 7		
	5,200 5 8		
3s. 0'000d. " MINE DEVELOPMENT RE-			
DEMPTION ACCOUNT—			
2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Levels .. ..	9,503 14 0		
" BALANCE .. ..	55,387 7 9		
	£133,827 11 1		
24s. 9'131d. " DEPRECIATION—			
10 per cent. off Main Incline Shaft			
Plant and Battery Account .. ..	4,993 12 0		
10 per cent. off Main Incline Shaft .. ..	617 15 0		
15 " " Tailings Treatment			
Works .. ..	2,051 15 2		
50 per cent. off Permanent Works .. ..	530 10 7		
20 " " Tram Lines and			
Trucks .. ..	328 9 5		
20 per cent. off General Plant .. ..	134 14 8		
15 " " Workshops and Plant .. ..	215 0 1		
10 " " Buildings .. ..	869 13 4		
25 " " Live Stock .. ..	34 9 3		
Written off for Stock de-			
ceased .. ..	25 17 6		
20 per cent. off Furniture .. ..	56 15 1		
Bad Debts written off .. ..	281 10 11		
	10,340 3 0		
" DIVIDEND ACCOUNT—			
No. 16, 25 per cent. on £83,157 .. ..	20,789 5 0		
No. 17, 25 per cent. on £85,000 .. ..	21,250 0 0		
	42,039 5 0		
" RESERVE FUND—			
10 per cent. on Dividend No. 16 .. ..	2,078 18 6		
10 per cent. on Dividend No. 17 .. ..	2,125 0 0		
	4,203 18 6		
BALANCE—Carried Forward to Profit			
and Loss Account No. 2 .. ..	80,805 18 8		
	£137,389 5 9		

Examined, compared with books, and found correct.

DAVID FRASER, } Auditors.  
J. P. O'REILLY, }

Johannesburg: 18th February, 1896.

H. B. OWEN, Secretary.

GEORGE ALEU, Chairman, } Directors  
A. BRAKHAN, }



Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—cont.

## MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, NO. 2.

## To SPECIAL DEPRECIATIONS—

Old 50 Stamp Battery, &c., Amount written off	£10,396 9 3
No. 1 Shaft, Plant Account	2,301 17 2
No. 2 Shaft, Plant Account	4,313 10 9
Main Shaft, Nos. 1 and 2	5,084 13 0
General Improvements—totally written off	313 13 0
	£22,410 3 2

## MINE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT—

Expenditure to December 31, 1894	19,381 14 6
Expenditure for Year ended December 31, 1895—	

Wages, Europeans £1,422 0 4	Drives 3,716
Wages, Natives	Crosscuts 448
(including food) 2,206 0 0	Winzes 836
Explosives .. 597 9 2	Raises 864
Tools, Stores, &c. 2,124 8 1	
Smithy Account .. 617 10 0	
Contractors .. 7,017 3 0	5,264
	13,904 10 7

Less written off to Mine Development Redemption

Account during year ..	9,503 14 0
Balance totally written off ..	23,782 11 1

## QUARTZ ACCOUNT—

Balance totally written off ..	5,819 3 3
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BALANCE ..	28,794 1 2
	£30,805 18 8

Examined, compared with books, and found correct.

DAVID FRASER, } Auditors.  
J. P. O'REILLY, }

Johannesburg : 18th February, 1896.

## BY BALANCE—

From Profit and Loss Account, No. 1 .. .. . £30,805 18 8

GEORGE ALBU, Chairman, } Directors,  
A. BRAKHAN, }

H. B. OWEN, Secretary.

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

## SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Seventh Annual General Meeting of Shareholders in the Company was held in the Board Room, City Chambers, on Friday, 28th February, 1896. Mr. George Albu presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. H. Rogers, W. F. Lance, A. Epler, A. Brakhan, H. Freeman Cohen, H. Daniel, and H. B. Owen (Secretary), representing personally and by proxy 9,158 Shares.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 28th February, and of adjourned Special Meeting held on 14th March, 1895, were taken as read and confirmed. The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts were also taken as read.

In moving the adoption of the Report and Balance-sheet, the Chairman said he felt in a somewhat awkward position in addressing the Shareholders at this meeting when he thought of the remarks to which he had given utterance at the last General Meeting. There was an old saying, "Confession is good for the soul," and in making these few remarks he felt that he was bound to give them some explanation why the predictions which he made at the last meeting had not come true. The Manager's report fully explained the reason, and to it he had very little to add. He regretted very much that the hopes he had held out had not been realised. He had said that they would make a monthly profit of from eight to ten thousand pounds when they started the new mill. Unfortunately, the grade of the ore had gone lower and lower, and in consequence the profits had decreased. The reason for that was that they were unable to confine operations to the old Meyer and Charlton ground which, as they knew, was very rich indeed. In starting the new mill the mine was not sufficiently developed to work on the old Meyer and Charlton Reefs altogether, and they had therefore to fall back upon the ground acquired some time ago from the Wolsingham and Wolhuter Companies, which they knew was not as rich as the Meyer and Charlton ground. He had not given up hopes of his previous predictions, and he was sure they would improve their crushings again. He had every reason to be very careful to-day in making predictions, but he still maintained that they would shortly be able to win from 8 to 10 dwts. over the plates, for the fifth and sixth levels were being opened up on the rich shoot, and, furthermore, they had come across some rich ore in the eastern part of the mine. In the past, of course, they had obtained 16 dwts. over the plates, but they had decided to equalise the monthly crushings as much as possible, and he was sure that they could maintain an average of 8 dwts. They must not forget that since the time they had started working the new mill they had crushed nearly 50 per cent. of their Main Reef. This, of course, accounted a great deal for the fact that the working expenditure had again been reduced this year by about 45 per cent. They had not had a very successful year what with native labour and one thing and another—and yet they had been able to accomplish this saving in cost. They were erecting a further 20 stamp in order to crush more Main Reef, as they had a very large body in the mine, and these stamps

would be in operation in a month's time from to-day. These, of course, entailed a larger capital outlay than they anticipated at the time they increased their capital. They had only calculated on 60 stamps and were erecting 80, which required another supplement of boilers; and in order to minimise the stoppages caused by the repair of the engine they had ordered a duplicate to the one they had already running. They had also provided additional Cyanide Plant, enlarged the Compound, &c., which further added to the expenses. They would therefore be somewhat in debt. However, this need not trouble them in the least. It was not their intention to again increase their capital. It was their desire to keep the capital at £85,000, which was a very small capital indeed, and to pay off their debts from their profits as they went along, and continue paying their ordinary profits. If the anticipations which the Board felt they were justified in forming were correct, their profits would be nearly £100,000 a year. Their dividends would only take something like £45,000, so that there would be a very wide margin left from which they would in a very short time be able to liquidate the debt of the Company besides paying their dividends. The manager spoke about native labour in the following manner:—

"I am again pleased to report that no difficulty has been experienced in securing a plentiful supply of native labour for all departments, although our requirements have been double that of the preceding year, owing to our increased stamping capacity. The natives have come to us without any inducement or assistance from anyone."

He thought that short passage was very interesting reading. They did not claim any credit for this. He might say it was a happy circumstance that they had been fully supplied with native labour. And yet this question was one which was causing the Rand in general very serious trouble. Natives were not doing the work in the same way that they used to do a few years ago. They were very independent—almost as independent as the white men—and if you told them to drill a 3 feet hole instead of a 2 feet 6 inch hole they would probably tell you to get someone else to do it. There was no use in denying the fact that the question of native labour was a very grave one, and one which the Rand in general had to tackle very seriously. Personally, he had not the slightest doubt that they would receive every support from the Government to cause native labour to be brought to the Rand, and as far as his experience went there was but one way out of the difficulty. That way was not to send touts into the various native districts, but to let the Government help them to bring down as many natives as possible, so as to bring about, as it were, an over-abundant labour supply on the Rand, and make native labour so plentiful that a native who would not work could not get employment elsewhere. This would not only supply them plentifully with native labour, but would also have a very wholesome effect, inasmuch as they would be able to reduce the price of native labour. He must mention here that the Meyer and Charlton was paying an average of 58s. 5d. per month, while the average pay on the other mines was 65s. to 70s. If they were able to procure native labour at something like 40s.—personally he would like to see it at 30s. if possible—the profits of the various companies would be considerably enhanced. But it was not only to get down natives that they ought to approach the Government. There was a great evil—

## 370

This concluded the meeting.

**Offices—181 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.**



## ISSUE OF £50,000 PREFERENCE SHARES.

## NO PROMOTION MONEY HAS BEEN OR WILL BE PAID.

A Home Investment with a Certified Net Income, £10,193 per annum, while £2,750 only is required to pay the Annual Dividend on the Issue of Preference Shares. (The Profits of Four Shops, recently acquired, are not included in the above Figures.)

# SHAW, BRYANT & CO., LIM.,

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893, whereby the liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares.

**CAPITAL - - £100,000**

**DIVIDED INTO**

50,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	...	£50,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	...	50,000
		<b>£100,000</b>

The Preference Shares rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares both as to the dividend and capital.

Dividends on the Preference Shares will be paid half-yearly, on the 29th day of September and the 29th day of March. The first payment will be made on the 29th day of September, 1896, and calculated from the due dates of the instalments.

It is intended to pay half-yearly dividends on the Ordinary Shares, the trade being almost entirely for cash.

There are no Founders' Shares, and after providing for the dividend on the Preference Shares, the present certified profits show 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares, in addition to leaving a very substantial balance.

The Vendors have stipulated that 30,000 of the Ordinary Shares (£30,000) shall be allotted to them in part payment of the purchase money. The balance of the Ordinary Shares (£20,000) have already been subscribed for by the Directors and their friends.

The LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY (Limited) are AUTHORIZED by the Directors of the Company to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS at PAR for 50,000 PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each, payable as follows:—5s. on application, 5s. on allotment, 10s. on the 4th day of May, 1896.

## DIRECTORS.

T. H. BROOKE HITCHING, Esq. (Chairman), 198 Oxford Street, W., and 19 to 23 Ludgate Hill, E.C. (of Hitching & Wynn).  
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This Company has been formed to acquire as going concerns, and to develop and extend, the prosperous and well-known businesses of Provision Dealers, Grocers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, and General Store Keepers, hitherto carried on by Mr. M. W. Shaw, Mr. A. L. Shaw, and Mr. Palmer Bryant, at the following premises:—

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118 High Street, Stoke Newington, N.	207 Victoria Park, South Hackney, N.E.
169 High Street, Stoke Newington, N.	209 Victoria Park, South Hackney, N.E.
184 High Street, Stoke Newington, N.	92 Shepherdess Walk, City Road, N.E.
140 High Street, Stoke Newington, N.	(St. Peter's Stores) 347 Walworth Road, S.E.
225 Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.	365 Walworth Road, S.E.
245 Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.	367 Walworth Road, S.E.
36 Church Street, Camberwell, S.E.	371 Walworth Road, S.E.
74 Bishop's Road, Cambridge Heath, E.	11 Camberwell Road, S.E.
*307 Lambeth Walk, S.E.	27 Camberwell Road, S.E.
110 Beckenham Road, Penge, S.E.	29 Camberwell Road, S.E.
112 Beckenham Road, Penge, S.E.	
114 Beckenham Road, Penge, S.E.	
548 Kingsland Road, N.E.	

\* There are Post Offices at these two shops.

The above shops provide for the supply of tea, coffee, grocery, provisions, wines, beers, spirits, mineral waters, and general household requirements of the best quality at the lowest cash prices. They are all situated in densely-populated districts of the metropolis, and the large and rapid turnover, added to the fact that the businesses are almost entirely conducted on cash principles, has enabled the owners to carry out the store system of selling the best goods at the smallest margin of profit.

The shops are well fitted and equipped in a manner essential to the successful carrying on of the various businesses.

The actual net income for the year 1895, as certified to by the accountants, was £10,193, in respect of twenty-one out of the total number of shops to be acquired by the Company, and to this will be added the profits arising from the other four shops, which have only been recently acquired.

The conversion of the businesses into a Joint Stock Company with increased capital will enable them to be conducted upon a larger scale, and it is intended to develop the businesses by opening and acquiring other shops in suitable localities as opportunity arises.

The books of the various businesses taken over have been investigated by Messrs. E. Layton Bennett & Co., Chartered Accountants, whose certificate is as follows:—

Bishopsgate House, 55 and 56 Bishopsgate Street,  
London, E.C., 28th March, 1896.

To the Directors of SHAW, BRYANT & CO., Limited.

We have examined the books submitted to us by Messrs. A. L. and M. W. Shaw for the three years ending 31st December, 1895, and by Mr. Palmer Bryant for the three years ending 2nd November, 1895, and we certify that, after making efficient allowance for depreciation, and charging all expenses, the average net profits of the combined businesses for the said periods were £9,658 17s. 4d.; the net profits for the last year being £10,193 4s. 3d. These accounts do not include any results from the four shops recently acquired.

(Signed) E. LAYTON BENNETT & CO.

The above net income for 1895, viz. .. .. .	£10,193 6 3
will allow of the following appropriation:—	
5½ per cent. on 50,000 Preference Shares .. ..	£2,750 0 0
10 per cent. on 50,000 Ordinary Shares .. ..	5,000 0 0
	<b>7,750 0 0</b>

Leaving a Surplus of .. .. . £2,443 6 3

available for administration, the creation of a Reserve Fund, and further dividends, to which must be added the profits arising from the four shops not contained in the accountants' certificate, which the Directors confidently anticipate will (as they are all old-established businesses) realise profits at the same rate as the other businesses.

The success attending the opening of a large number of retail shops under one management has been fully demonstrated, and it is anticipated that the economy derived from the increased wholesale buying will add a substantial percentage to the profits.

The present owners of the various businesses to be acquired by the Company (who have had upwards of twenty-five years' practical experience) will act as Directors. Mr. Palmer Bryant and Mr. A. L. Shaw have agreed to act as Managing Directors for a period of five years, so that the Company will have the benefit of the continuation of the management which has made the businesses so great a success.

It is to be remarked that the businesses are not liable to fluctuations of fashion, but depend upon the daily demands for the necessities of life of an ever-growing population.

It is intended to establish a Central Wholesale Depot, from whence all the businesses acquired will be supplied.

The businesses will be taken over as from the 2nd day of March, 1896, together with the profits accruing since that date. The Company will collect all debts then outstanding on behalf of the Vendors, who will discharge all liabilities up to that date.

The price to be paid by the Company to the Vendors for the goodwill of the businesses, the valuable leases and under-leases of the shops, plant, machinery, electric light appliances, fixtures and fittings (upon which a large outlay has been made), horses, carts, vans, &c., connected with the businesses, has been fixed by the Vendors at £27,330, leaving £22,670 available for working capital, which, in the opinion of the Directors, is ample.

The Stock will be taken over and paid for by the Company as per stocktaking of 2nd March inst. at cost price—namely, £9,853 11s. 4d.

The Vendors have stipulated that £30,000 shall be paid to them in Ordinary Shares, and the balance will be payable in cash or in Shares, at the option of the Company.

The Vendors, who are the promoters of the Company, will pay all expenses in connection with its formation and registration up to allotment, except the registration fee and stamp duties.

No promotion money has been or will be paid. The success which has attended the conversion into joint-stock companies of large retail trading establishments is evidenced by the following approximate present market quotations:—

	Ordinary Shares quoted at £	Div. p.c.	Yield to Investor.	Preference Shares quoted at £	Div. p.c.	Yield to Investor.
Harrod's Stores (Ltd.) ..	1 5½	20	3 14 6	5 6½	5	3 14 0
D. H. Evans & Co. (Ltd.) ..	1 2½	12	3 1 2	1 4	4	4 7 6
John Barker & Co. (Ltd.) ..	1 2½	12	4 3 6	5 6½	5½	3 18 6
Horne & Co. Stores (Ltd.) ..	—	—	—	5 6½	6	4 14 0
Brooke, Bond & Co. (Ltd.) ..	5 16½	15	4 9 6	5 6½	—	—
T. Wallace & Co. (Ltd.) ..	5 11½	8	3 10 3	5 6½	6	3 12 0

The progress of successful stores may be easily seen by the fact that between 1890 and 1895 the profits of Harrod's Stores have increased from £12,519 to £21,728—that is, an increase of £9,209 in six years.

It is proposed to follow the judicious policy of making a liberal allotment of the Company's share capital to applications received from customers and employees, who thus acquire a direct interest in increasing the prosperity of the business.

The following agreements have been entered into, viz.:—Three agreements for sale, all dated 26th day of March, 1896, made between Alfred Lamartine Shaw, Matthew W. Shaw, and Palmer Bryant respectively of the one part, and the Company of the other part; and an agreement for the appointment of Alfred Lamartine Shaw and Palmer Bryant as Managing Directors of the Company, also dated the 26th day of March, 1896, and made between the Company of the one part, Alfred Lamartine Shaw of the second part, and Palmer Bryant of the third part.

There are also trading contracts, which it is not in the interests of the Company to specify here, but some of which may constitute contracts within the meaning of the 35th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for shares must be deemed to waive their right, if any, to the publication of any further particulars as to such contracts.

Application for Preference Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers or their Branches with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

If no allotment is made, the application money will be returned in full. Where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices and Shops of the Company, from the Bankers, and from the Solicitors.

The Original Certificate of the Accountants and the Agreements entered into by the Company can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors.

Application will be made in due course for a quotation of the Preference Shares on the London Stock Exchange.

28th March, 1896.

371

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Net Fire Profit	.. .. .	£25,810
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		£46,133
Dividend	.. .. .	£30,000
Added to the Funds for the Year	.. .. .	£16,133
Capital Subscribed	.. .. .	£2,000,000
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372

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